

State\$ on the Take.com
Your Government for Sale. Look Who's Buying – Now!

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
July 12, 2004

Contact: **S. George Alfonso**
 (214) 350-5584.

**NEW WEBSITE EXPOSES STATE GOVERNMENTS' COVERT
PARTNERSHIP WITH *BIG TOBACCO*.**

Dallas, Texas- **StatesOnTheTake.com**, a grassroots advocacy site, has *obtained and made available* the entire "*Privileged and Confidential*", Memo #03-111 of September 12th, 2003 drafted by the National Association of Attorneys General ("NAAG"), for release *only* to the attorneys general of the 46 states which signed the Master Settlement Agreement ("MSA"). The MSA was negotiated between the states attorneys generals and *Big Tobacco* in 1998 to end litigation against *Big Tobacco*.

This "*Privileged and Confidential*" memo from NAAG, the regulatory association which oversees enforcement of the MSA, ***is currently unavailable in its entirety anywhere else on the Internet or in any other form of the public domain.***

According to S. George Alfonso, in house counsel for **StatesOnTheTake.com**, "This memo reveals the state governments' active intervention in the free market on behalf of its MSA business partner, *Big Tobacco*." According to Mr. Alfonso, "These collusive efforts by elected officials on behalf of *Big Tobacco* are designed to create a *de-facto Big Tobacco monopoly* which will allow *Big Tobacco* to dictate product distribution and entirely control pricing." Such a *de-facto monopoly* says Alfonso "would effectively wipe out the consumer's freedom to choose any product other than what *Big Tobacco* dictates, while insuring a stable (and never-decreasing) annual MSA pay-off to each state partner."

Mr. Alfonso further explains that "With the establishment of a *de-facto Big Tobacco monopoly*, the annual state pay-offs would only increase as a result of future price hikes by *Big Tobacco*, unlike this past year's substantially reduced state pay-offs, all done without the hindrance of any legitimate competition, thanks to the states' imposed disadvantages through legislation and the MSA, upon any and all independent small business would-be free market competition to non-*Big Tobacco*."

StatesOnTheTake.com, is an advocacy web site which is actively exposing this state-based issue with powerful national ramifications.