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## **R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company position on proposed North Carolina smoking ban**

**WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. – Feb. 26, 2009** – R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, the nation’s second-largest tobacco-products manufacturer, supports smoking restrictions in most public places, but urges the N.C. legislature to exempt adult-only venues like bars and nightclubs from a statewide smoking ban.

“Every business – including bars, nightclubs and restaurants – already has the right to ban smoking in their facility today, and many have done so,” said Maura Payne, vice president of communications for the Winston-Salem-based tobacco products manufacturer. “However, we believe that age-restricted environments like bars, taverns and nightclubs should have the opportunity to determine what smoking policy works best for their clientele.”

“Bars are generally small businesses, and many are feeling the effects of the struggling economy,” Payne said. “Adult-only venues, where attendance is obviously voluntary, should have the flexibility to develop smoking policies that best meet the preferences of their customers.

“For some businesses, offering a smoke-free environment is a competitive advantage, and those businesses should have the freedom to establish policies that enable them to market to a clientele who seeks that kind of environment,” Payne said. “However, that’s not true for all bars and nightclubs, and we believe owners of adult-only facilities should have the opportunity to set a policy that best suits their customers and allows them to successfully operate their businesses.”

*R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, an indirect subsidiary of Reynolds American Inc. (NYSE: RAI), is the second-largest tobacco company in the United States, manufacturing about one of every three cigarettes sold in the country. The company’s brands include five of the 10 best-selling U.S. cigarette brands: Camel, Kool, Pall Mall, Winston and Doral. For more information, visit [www.RJRT.com](http://www.RJRT.com).*

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