

# Regulation of tobacco products favors big tobacco, makes US farms less stable

November 12 2008

---

In an attempt to reinvent itself as a "responsible corporate citizen," tobacco company Philip Morris supports regulation of tobacco products by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

A new study in *American Ethnologist* reveals that proposed FDA regulation fails to address the suffering of migrant tobacco workers, the prevalence of smoking, and the redistribution of leaf production to the developing world, and it may actually favor the tobacco industry by reducing its liability for tobacco-related death and disease, by sustaining its operations around the world, and by strengthening its control over the terms of its contracts with U.S. tobacco growers.

Peter Benson, Ph.D., of Washington University explored the impact of Philip Morris's "makeover" and FDA regulation on tobacco farmers and migrant farmworkers in North Carolina.

While the company's support for FDA regulation of tobacco products seems calculated to enhance its public image, limit its liability, and maintain its global operations, it will also contribute to the continued restructuring of North Carolina's agriculture toward large-scale farming and dependency on undocumented immigrant labor from Mexico and Central America.

"In North Carolina, this historic tobacco control measure and cornerstone of Philip Morris's corporate makeover risks shifting the financial, moral, and political burdens of health-driven production onto

the shoulders of insecure farmers and subordinated farmworkers," Benson concludes.

Source: Wiley

Citation: Regulation of tobacco products favors big tobacco, makes US farms less stable (2008, November 12) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2008-11-tobacco-products-favors-big-farms.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.