

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 24, 2015

**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STATEMENT**

Major League Baseball issued the following statement today on the announcement from California lawmakers and the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids on its "Knock Tobacco Out of the Park" program:

"Major League Baseball has long supported a ban of smokeless tobacco at the Major League level. We have sought a ban of its use on-field in discussions with the Major League Baseball Players Association. Currently, players, managers and coaches cannot use smokeless tobacco during interviews or Club appearances. Personnel may not carry tobacco products in uniform when fans are in the ballpark. The use of smokeless tobacco has long been banned in the Minor Leagues, where the matter is not subject to collective bargaining.

"For decades, we have made extensive efforts to educate players and the public about the well-established dangers of smokeless tobacco. Major League Baseball has had constructive recent conversations with the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids regarding its tobacco cessation programs. We ardently believe that children should not use or be exposed to smokeless tobacco, and we support the spirit of this initiative in California and any others that would help achieve this important goal."

# # #

**Contact:** Patrick Courtney or Michael Teevan, Major League Baseball, (212) 931-7878, [mlbpressbox.com](http://mlbpressbox.com), [twitter.com/mlb\\_pr](https://twitter.com/mlb_pr).