

News and Brews

Category Conversation: Tobacco and Nicotine



Scott Drenkard - Altria Client Services - Director, Public Policy

Scott's work on Altria's public policy team supports the company's state and federal government affairs functions. He uses economics and data to advocate for policies that advance harm reduction while promoting choice for adult consumers. Scott is a noted voice in tax policy, including being an expert witness in legal proceedings on excise tax policy, contributor in popular press and author of hundreds of articles on tax issues. Prior to Altria, he led the Tax Foundations's state team where his work led to fundamental tax reforms in multiple states. He holds a B.S. in Economics from the University of Mary Washington and M.A. in Economics from George Mason University.



Scott Schaier - ITG Brands - Director, State Government Affairs

Scott has spent his career helping organizations navigate government, policy, and commercial challenges. Before joining ITG Brands, he led a beverage alcohol trade association, where he managed government affairs, coordinated advocacy efforts across multiple states, and worked on legislation affecting the industry. Scott has also held global market development roles with SABMiller PLC in Latin America and worked in communications and brand management for iconic brands such as Hasbro, Mattel and Fisher-Price. He and his family live in the seacoast region of New Hampshire where he enjoys snowboarding, tennis and hiking with his dog in his free time.



Dan Mulvaney - PMI US Director, Industry Engagement in External Affairs

Dan is focused on building the infrastructure necessary to achieve PMI U.S.'s mission to improve public health by advocating, activating and educating the industry on smoke-free alternatives that are better than continued smoking. Dan's government affairs experience includes being a Capitol Hill staffer, political director for the National Association of Convenience Stores and leading the Swedish Match North America (SMNA) state government affairs team for more than two decades. Following the acquisition of SMNA by PMI in 2022, Dan served as Director, Fiscal Policy, leading the state excise tax policy group. Currently residing in Alexandria, Virginia, Dan is passionate about traveling the world to exotic places to fish.



Kyle May · Reynolds · Director External Relations

Kyle's experience at Reynolds includes commercial initiatives and public policy. He joined the company in 2012 as a territory manager and advanced to senior division manager. In 2020 he joined the public policy and trade association management team as Senior Manager External Relations. Prior to Reynolds, Kyle had experience across the political spectrum including the U.S House of Representatives, Congressional campaigns, advocacy organizations, and public health policy. He holds a Bachelor's in Political Science from Lenoir-Rhyne University and Masters of Business Administration from Grand Canyon University. He and his wife are the proud parents of two boys. In his free time, he enjoys cycling, running and family travel.



Chris Howard · Swisher · Executive VP, External Affairs & New Product Compliance

As head of External Affairs, Chris rapidly revitalized Swisher's external affairs efforts to place the company at the advocacy forefront for the cigar and modern oral nicotine industry categories. He and his team also provide advocacy for Swisher's sister companies, Drew Estate and E-Alternative Solutions (EAS), and lead Swisher's community engagement efforts. In his compliance role, Chris oversees all levels of regulatory compliance activity with state regulators and the U.S. FDA for all new products marketed by Swisher and its sister company, EAS, including modern oral nicotine, vapor, CBD, and energy products. He is a board member of the Cigar Association of America and the National Association of Tobacco Outlets.