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**REEL: 011419 FRAME: 0978**

## Correspondent Name and Address

Area Code and Telephone Number

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2

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Grover M. Myers

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12/18/00

## ASSIGNMENT

In consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00), and other good and valuable considerations, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the undersigned,

Evon Llewellyn Crooks; Joanne Naomi Taylor

Hereby sell, assign and transfer to R. J. REYNOLDS TOBACCO COMPANY a corporation of the State of New Jersey having a place of business at Winston-Salem in the County of Forsyth and State of North Carolina its successors, assigns and legal representatives, the entire right, title and interest for all countries, in and to the invention disclosed and claimed, and as possessed by the undersigned, any invention which is disclosed but not claimed, in the application for United States Patent, which has been executed by the undersigned on December 18, 2000 and is entitled "Reduced Ignition Propensity Smoking Article" and in and to said application and all divisional, continuation, continuation-in-part, substitute, renewal, reissue, and all other applications for Letters Patent which have been or shall be filed on any of said inventions disclosed in said application; and in and to all original and reissued patents which have been or shall be issued on said inventions;

Authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue to said Assignee, the corporation above named, its successors, assigns and legal representatives, in accordance with this agreement, any and all United States Letters Patent on said inventions disclosed in said application;

Agree that said Assignee may apply for and receive foreign Letters Patent for said inventions; and may claim, in applications for said foreign Letters Patent, the priority of the aforesaid United States application under the provisions of the International

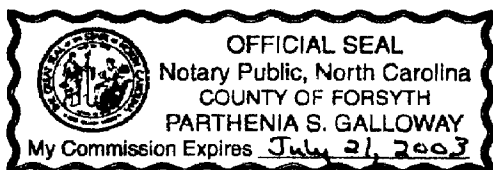
Convention; and that, when requested, without charge to but at the expense of said Assignee, its successors, assigns and legal representatives, to carry out in good faith the intent and purpose of this assignment, the undersigned will, for the United States and all foreign countries, execute all divisional, continuation, continuation-in-part, substitute, renewal, reissue, and all other patent applications on any and all said inventions; execute all rightful oaths, assignments, powers of attorney and other papers; communicate to said Assignee its successors, assigns, and representatives, all facts known to the undersigned relating to said inventions and the history thereof; testify in all legal proceedings; and generally do everything possible which said Assignee, its successors, assigns or representatives shall consider desirable for aiding in securing, maintaining and enforcing proper patent protection for said inventions and for vesting title to said inventions and all applications for patents and all patents on said inventions, in said Assignee, its successors, assigns and legal representatives; and

COVENANT with said Assignee, its successors, assigns and legal representatives that no assignment, grant, mortgage, license or other agreement affecting the rights and property herein conveyed has been made to others by the undersigned, and that full right to convey the same as herein expressed is possessed by the undersigned.

Evon Llewellyn Crooks ELC (L.S.) \_\_\_\_\_ (L.S.)  
Joanne Naomi Taylor JNT (L.S.) \_\_\_\_\_ (L.S.)

State of North Carolina  
County of Forsyth

Before me this 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2000 personally appeared Evon Llewellyn Crooks and Joanne Naomi Taylor to me personally known to be the person(s) who is/are described in and who executed the above instrument, and he/they acknowledged to me that he/they executed the same of his/their own free will for the purposes therein set forth.



Parthenia S. Galloway  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires July 21, 2003

2