

PHILIP MORRIS

COMPANIES INC.

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G. PENN HOLSENBECK
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February 1, 1999

Alan Blum, MD
5115 Loch Lomond
Houston, TX 77096

Dear Dr. Blum:

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors of Philip Morris Companies Inc. has reviewed your letter and resume requesting that you be considered for nomination to the Board.

After due consideration and review of your qualifications, the Committee has decided not to recommend you as a nominee to the Philip Morris Board.

The Committee asked me to inform you of its decision and to thank you for your interest in our company.

Very truly yours,



GPH:rs