NEW YORK, NY [August 16th, 2018] - The National Coffee Association (NCA) told a public hearing today that the weight of scientific evidence, endorsed by the World Health Organization, shows that coffee prevents certain cancers and that coffee drinkers live longer.

Speaking in Sacramento California, at the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) oral hearing on Proposition 65 warnings on coffee, NCA CEO and President Bill Murray spoke about the scientific evidence in support of one of America’s favorite drinks.

Bill Murray pointed to the wealth of evidence from the recent the World Health Organization assessment of coffee which found that coffee is associated with a reduced risk of certain cancers.

The WHO’s International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) analyzed more than 1,000 separate scientific studies and found that not only did coffee not cause cancer but it actually improved the health of those who drank it.

“We’ve known about many of the benefits of coffee for some time. In fact, we’ve known about some of them for hundreds and hundreds of years.

“We also know how popular coffee is, partly because of some these benefits. Two thirds of Americans drank at least one cup of coffee today. Altogether, we consume approximately 150 million billion cups of coffee in the US every year.

“A recent study of more than half a million people found that those who consume six or seven cups of coffee a day were 16 per cent less likely to die from any disease over a ten-year period than those who never touch it.
“Now that science has so comprehensively established the facts on coffee we believe it is incumbent on regulators to give citizens confidence in what they are consuming.

“We applaud OEHHA for recognizing this and for moving so rapidly after the publication of the IARC findings” Bill Murray, National Coffee Association CEO and President.

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About the National Coffee Association
The National Coffee Association of U.S.A., Inc. (NCA), established in 1911, is the leading trade organization for the coffee industry in the United States. The NCA is the only trade association that serves all segments of the U.S. coffee industry, including traditional and specialty companies.

About Proposition 65 and Coffee
- Proposition 65 is a law in California that requires the state to publish a list of chemicals known to cause cancer or birth defects or other reproductive harm.
- Acrylamide has been listed as a carcinogen according to Proposition 65 since 1990, it is a natural chemical, that occurs in the roasting process for coffee beans.
- The issue for coffee is that Prop. 65 does not focus on the food as a whole but rather individual chemicals.
- IARC studies show that drinking coffee prevents certain cancers.

About the International Agency for Research on Cancer
- The full assessment is available: http://publications.iarc.fr/_publications/media/download/4860/0afee84c406758fd7342ea763c3ca8408a39a91f.pdf
- IARC classifies most of the substances it reviews in the following categories:
  - definitely carcinogenic (1),
  - probably carcinogenic (2A),
  - possibly carcinogenic (2B),
  - non classifiable (3) as a cancer hazard.
- IARC has reviewed 1004 hazards to date.