

March 8, 2019

To the Board of Directors of the Steuben Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation:

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and major fund of Steuben Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation (the Corporation) a blended component unit of the County of Steuben, New York, for the year ended December 31, 2018. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards (and, if applicable, *Government Auditing Standards* and Uniform Guidance), as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated January 9, 2019. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

#### SIGNIFICANT AUDIT FINDINGS

#### **Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices**

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Corporation are described in Note 2 to the financial statements.

No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2018. We noted no transactions entered into by the Corporation during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected.

The most sensitive estimate affecting the Corporation's financial statements was:

Management's estimate of the Tobacco Settlement Revenue (TSR) receivable, which is based on the actual TSR revenue received in prior years. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the TSR receivable in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users.

There are no particularly sensitive financial statement disclosures. The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

#### **Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit**

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

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#### **Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements**

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management.

## There were no such misstatements identified during our audit.

## **Disagreements with Management**

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report.

### We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

## **Management Representations**

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated March 8, 2019.

## **Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants**

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Corporation's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts.

#### To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

## Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Corporation's auditors.

# However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

## **Other Matters**

We applied certain limited procedures to the Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A), which is required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements.

## We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

### **Restriction on Use**

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of Directors and management of Steuben Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.