

To the Board of Directors
Herkimer Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation

We have audited the financial statements of Herkimer Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2015, and have issued our report thereon dated February 23, 2016. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards 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 11, 2016. 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 Herkimer Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2015. We noted no transactions entered into by the Organization 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 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.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. There were no misstatements noted during the 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 February 23, 2016.

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 Organization'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 Issue

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

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

D'Arcangelo + Co., LLP

February 23, 2016

Rome, New York

HERKIMER TOBACCO
ASSET SECURITIZATION
CORPORATION (a
Component Unit of the
County of Herkimer, New
York)

For the Year Ended
December 31, 2015

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

HERKIMER TOBACCO ASSET SECURITIZATION CORPORATION

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors of
Herkimer Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Herkimer Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation (a nonprofit organization), a component unit of the County of Herkimer, New York, which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Organization's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Herkimer Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

D'Arcangelo + Co., LLP

February 23, 2016

Rome, New York

HERKIMER TOBACCO ASSET SECURITIZATION CORPORATION

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2015 and 2014

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Assets		
Cash	\$ 92,438	\$ 81,747
Deposits Held With Trustees	1,158,700	1,161,371
Bond Issuance Costs, Net	291,792	300,911
Bond Discounts and Escrow Deposits, Net	401,682	414,234
Prepaid Insurance	<u>3,541</u>	<u>2,868</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,948,153</u>	<u>\$ 1,961,131</u>
Liabilities and Unrestricted Net (Deficit)		
Liabilities		
Accrued Interest and Other Expenses	\$ 55,278	\$ 58,934
Long-Term Debt	<u>23,451,466</u>	<u>22,985,625</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>23,506,744</u>	<u>23,044,559</u>
Unrestricted Net (Deficit)		
Unreserved	<u>(21,558,591)</u>	<u>(21,083,428)</u>
Total Unrestricted Net (Deficit)	<u>(21,558,591)</u>	<u>(21,083,428)</u>
Total Liabilities and Unrestricted Net (Deficit)	<u>\$ 1,948,153</u>	<u>\$ 1,961,131</u>

The Accompanying Notes are an Integral Part of These Financial Statements.

HERKIMER TOBACCO ASSET SECURITIZATION CORPORATION

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

For the Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Revenue		
Tobacco Settlement Rights (TSR)	\$ 964,202	\$ 1,126,714
Interest Income	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>
Total Revenue	<u>964,203</u>	<u>1,126,723</u>
 Program Expenses		
Bond Interest Expense	1,397,597	1,368,545
Amortized Bond Issuance Costs	9,119	9,119
Professional Fees	16,700	16,300
Director Insurance	3,362	4,701
Bond Trustee Fee	10,754	10,267
Director Fees and Expenses	500	500
Telephone and Rent	1,081	1,091
Liability Insurance	<u>253</u>	<u>249</u>
Total Expenses	<u>1,439,366</u>	<u>1,410,772</u>
 Changes in Net (Deficit) Before Transfers	 (475,163)	 (284,049)
Transfer to Residual Trust	<u> </u>	<u>(50,000)</u>
 Change in Net (Deficit)	 (475,163)	 (334,049)
 Unrestricted Net (Deficit), Beginning of Year	 <u>(21,083,428)</u>	 <u>(20,749,379)</u>
 Unrestricted Net (Deficit), End of Year	 <u>\$ (21,558,591)</u>	 <u>\$ (21,083,428)</u>

The Accompanying Notes are an Integral Part of These Financial Statements.

HERKIMER TOBACCO ASSET SECURITIZATION CORPORATION

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

For the Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Cash Flows from (Used by) Operating Activities		
Change in Net (Deficit)	\$ (475,163)	\$ (334,049)
Adjustments for Noncash Transactions		
Amortized Bond Discount Fees and Escrow Deposits	12,552	12,552
Amortized Bond Issuance Costs	9,119	9,119
Accreted Bond Interest	520,841	483,728
Decrease in Assets		
Prepaid Insurance	(673)	672
(Decrease) in Liabilities		
Accrued Interest and Other Expenses	<u>(3,656)</u>	<u>(3,385)</u>
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	<u>63,020</u>	<u>168,637</u>
Cash Flows from (Used by) Investing Activities		
Deposits with Trustees	<u>2,671</u>	<u>(3,328)</u>
Net Cash Flows from (Used by) Investing Activities	<u>2,671</u>	<u>(3,328)</u>
Cash (Used by) Financing Activities		
Payments of Long-Term Debt	<u>(55,000)</u>	<u>(205,000)</u>
Net Cash (Used by) Financing Activities	<u>(55,000)</u>	<u>(205,000)</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash	10,691	(39,691)
Cash, Beginning of Year	<u>81,747</u>	<u>121,438</u>
Cash, End of Year	<u>\$ 92,438</u>	<u>\$ 81,747</u>

Supplemental Cash Flow Disclosures

Cash Paid During the Year For:

Interest	<u>\$ 867,860</u>	<u>\$ 875,650</u>
Taxes	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>

The Accompanying Notes are an Integral Part of These Financial Statements.

HERKIMER TOBACCO ASSET SECURITIZATION CORPORATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Background and Operations

Herkimer Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation (HTASC) is a not-for-profit corporation formed exclusively for the purpose of acquiring from the County of Herkimer, New York (County) all or any of the rights, titles, and interest of the County under the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) with respect to tobacco related litigation among various settling states and participating manufacturers. HTASC is an instrumentality of, but separate and apart from, the County. In accordance with the Government Accounting Standards Board, financial activity of HTASC is presented as a blended component unit in the County of Herkimer's Annual Financial Statements.

In lieu of receiving the Tobacco Settlement Rights (TSR), HTASC, in conjunction with the New York Counties Tobacco Trust I, Trust IV, and Trust V issued Tobacco Settlement Pass-Through Bonds. The bonds have been issued to the Trust pursuant to an indenture between HTASC and Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company (the Trustee).

HTASC is primarily dependent on the future proceeds from the TSR to meet future obligations under the indenture agreement.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Basis of Presentation

The financial statements of HTASC have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and follows the guidance set forth by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

Revenue Recognition

Interest earnings are recognized in the year earned. TSR's are recorded as income in the year they are received.

HERKIMER TOBACCO ASSET SECURITIZATION CORPORATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 2 TAX STATUS

HTASC is a tax-exempt organization whereby its income is deemed exempt under the provisions of Section 115(1) of the Internal Revenue Code and utilizes December 31 as its fiscal year end.

NOTE 3 BOND ISSUANCE COSTS

HTASC has incurred costs associated with the Series 2005 and Series 2000 bond issues. Such costs are deferred and amortized using the straight-line method over the remaining life of the related debt. Amortization expense on bond issuance costs was \$9,119 for both of the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014. Bond issuance costs net of accumulated amortization at December 31, 2015 and 2014, were as follows:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Bond Issuance Costs	\$ 610,511	\$ 610,511
Accumulated Amortization	<u>(318,719)</u>	<u>(309,600)</u>
Bond Issuance Costs, Net	<u>\$ 291,792</u>	<u>\$ 300,911</u>

The estimated aggregate amortization expense for each of the five succeeding years is approximately \$9,119.

NOTE 4 BOND DISCOUNTS AND ESCROW DEPOSITS

HTASC recorded unamortized bond discounts and escrow deposits of \$401,682 and \$414,234 at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, in conjunction with the sale of the Series 2005 and advance refunding of the Series 2000 bonds. These costs have been deferred and are being amortized as interest expense over the remaining life of the bonds. For both of the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, HTASC recorded \$12,552 as interest expense associated with these costs.

NOTE 5 DEPOSITS HELD WITH TRUSTEES

Deposits Held with Trustees represent a reserve that has been established pursuant to HTASC's indenture and was funded from the proceeds of the Series 2005 bonds. The reserve is required to be funded in an amount equal to the maximum annual debt service on the Series 2005 Bonds.

Deposits Held with Trustees at December 31, 2015 and 2014, are comprised of money market funds and invested cash which are considered cash and cash equivalents.

HERKIMER TOBACCO ASSET SECURITIZATION CORPORATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 6 LONG-TERM DEBT

Advanced Refunding

On December 7, 2000, the New York Counties Tobacco Trust (NYCTT) I, issued \$227,130,000 aggregate principal amount of Tobacco Settlement Pass-Through Bonds, Series 2000. These bonds are special obligations of 17 different TASCs participating within the issue. The debt service is payable solely from pledged TSR and investment earnings on amounts on deposit as defined within each TASC's respective indenture. As a result of this borrowing, HTASC received \$14,280,000 net of underwriter discount fees. According to the terms of the required amortization payments, HTASC is required to make annual debt service payments through December 31, 2042, with interest ranging from 5.000% to 6.625%.

NYCTT IV - 2005 Series Bonds (Advance Refunding)

Bonds issued to complete the advanced refunding as described above have varying interest rates and maturity dates as follows:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Rate (%)</u>	<u>Outstanding Balance</u>
2005A	6/01/2024	4.25	\$ 6,200,000
2005A	6/01/2026	4.75	3,120,000
2005B	6/01/2023	6.00	1,670,000
2005C	6/01/2035	6.25	<u>4,800,000</u>
Total			<u>\$ 15,790,000</u>

At December 31, 2015 and 2014, HTASC recorded accrued interest of \$54,198 and \$57,844 on the outstanding bonds, respectively.

The following schedule of projected turbo redemption payments is based upon the Global Insight Base Case Consumption Forecast as defined in New York Counties Tobacco Trust IV and V official statements:

<u>December 31,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2016	\$ 170,000
2017	160,000
2018	260,000
2019	690,000
2020	1,490,000
Thereafter	<u>13,020,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 15,790,000</u>

HERKIMER TOBACCO ASSET SECURITIZATION CORPORATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 6 LONG-TERM DEBT (Continued)

NYCTT IV - Series 2005D and 2005E Bonds (Subordinate Bonds)

In conjunction with the advance refunding, HTASC completed the sale of Series 2005D and 2005E capital appreciation bonds carrying varying yields and were sold discounted (zero coupon). As required by generally accepted accounting principles, HTASC accretes the effective interest appreciation over the life of the bonds to maturity. Changes to the bond values during the year are as follows:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Accreted Balance Outstanding at January 1, 2015</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Accreted Balance Outstanding at December 31, 2015</u>
Series 2005D	06/01/27	5.88%	\$ 1,466,826	\$ 87,401	\$ 1,554,227
Series 2005E	06/01/29	6.38%	1,392,094	90,312	1,482,406
Total			<u>\$ 2,858,920</u>	<u>\$ 177,713</u>	<u>\$ 3,036,633</u>

The Series 2005D and 2005E bonds are subordinate to the Series 2005 bonds in the advance refunding discussed above. No interest or principal will be paid on these bonds until all other series bonds of the corporation are redeemed. Funds expected to be used for redemption of these bonds will come from the Tobacco Settlement Receipts and payments are not anticipated until the year 2026.

Redemption of the bonds based on the turbo redemption schedule is anticipated to mature as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Outstanding Principal</u>
2026	\$ 2,365,679
2027	1,671,710
2028	1,692,888
2029	559,445
Total	<u>\$ 6,289,722</u>

NYCTT V -Series 2005S4B (Subordinate Bonds)

HTASC completed a bond issue of \$2,224,416 in November 2005. The net proceeds of \$2,096,082 (after issuance costs of \$128,334) were transferred to the residual trust. These bonds noted as Series 2005S4B carry varying yields and were sold discounted (zero coupon) similar to Series 2005D and Series 2005E. Changes to the bond values are as follows:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Accreted Balance Outstanding at January 1, 2015</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Accreted Balance Outstanding at December 31, 2015</u>
Series 2005S4B	2029-2040	7.85%	\$ 4,281,705	\$ 343,128	\$ 4,624,833

HERKIMER TOBACCO ASSET SECURITIZATION CORPORATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 6 LONG-TERM DEBT (Continued)

The Series 2005S4B bonds are subordinate to all of the Series 2005 bonds issued in conjunction with NYCTT IV discussed above. No interest or principal will be paid on these bonds until all other series bonds of the corporation are redeemed. Funds expected to be used for redemption of these bonds will come from the Tobacco Settlement Receipts and payments are not anticipated until the year 2029.

Redemption of the bonds based on the turbo redemption schedule is anticipated to mature as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>
2029	\$ 1,139,560
2030	1,737,050
2031	1,758,244
2032	1,783,166
2033	1,800,720
Thereafter	11,812,222
Total	<u>\$ 20,030,962</u>

NOTE 7 RELATED PARTY

HTASC is a special purpose local development corporation and is considered by legal counsel to be bankruptcy-remote from the County of Herkimer. However, HTASC's board of directors is comprised of a majority of elected or appointed officials of the County of Herkimer. For financial reporting purposes, HTASC is considered a blended component unit of the County of Herkimer. During the year ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, residual payments of \$0 and \$50,000, respectively, were paid to the County.

NOTE 8 CONTINGENCIES

Future tobacco settlement revenues are subject to adjustment based upon tobacco consumption, inflation, and other potential reductions. Pursuant to the Purchase and Sale Agreement, these adjustments and other events could trigger additional reserve requirements or could have an impact on the valuation of the Tobacco Settlement Rights.

NOTE 9 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated subsequent events through February 23, 2016, the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued.