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VECTOR GROUP NAMES AMERICAN HEALTH FOUNDATION CANCER EXPERT, DR. ANTHONY P. ALBINO, VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AFFAIRS

The Vector Group Ltd. (NYSE: VGR) announced today that Dr. Anthony P. Albino, a renowned research director with over 30 years of experience in cancer research and public health, has joined the Company as Vice President for Public Health Affairs. Dr. Albino will be coordinating, implementing and directing all public health initiatives for the Company.

Through its Vector Tobacco subsidiary, the Company is working to develop less hazardous products, including a virtually nicotine-free cigarette and cigarettes with significantly reduced levels of cancer-causing agents.

"Dr. Albino is an exceptionally talented individual with extensive experience in both basic and clinical research and public health, and we are delighted to welcome him to Vector," said Bennett S. LeBow, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Vector Group. "An expert in the field of Cancer Biology, Dr. Albino brings unparalleled expertise to the area of tobacco-related research which will further strengthen Vector's capabilities."

"It is a tremendous honor to be named as the Vice President for Public Health Affairs, and I look forward to working with the talented people at Vector at this extremely exciting time," said Dr. Albino.

Most recently, Dr. Albino held the position of Deputy Director at the American Health Foundation (AHF) Cancer Center in Valhalla, NY, an institution that has made seminal contributions to our understanding of the impact of tobacco use. In addition, he also served as AHF's Director of Research from 1997-2001, where he directed research staff, developed a molecular biology program, and implemented productive scientific associations with academic, industrial, and philanthropic organizations. Prior to joining AHF, from 1995 -1997, Dr. Albino held the position of Director of Research at Manhattan Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital.

Previously, Dr. Albino served on the staff of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center from 1986-1995, where he led a research group, which made valuable contributions to the understanding and treatment of skin, kidney, and gastric cancer.

In addition, Dr. Albino holds five patents for the identification and treatment of melanoma, brain, and kidney cancer, and has published over 250 peer-reviewed research articles, book chapters, and abstracts. He also served as both committee member and chairperson on numerous national and international review committees for cancer research funding.

Dr. Albino graduated from Hunter College in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts in biology. He received his PhD from Cornell University in 1974 with a focus in Cancer Biology.

Vector Group is a holding company that indirectly owns Liggett Group Inc., Vector Tobacco and a controlling interest in New Valley Corporation. Effective May 24, 2000, Vector Group changed its name from Brooke Group Ltd.