

Resolution of Support for Smokefree Alaska

Whereas, Secondhand smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, including at least 69 of which are known to cause cancer¹, including formaldehyde, benzene, vinyl chloride, arsenic, ammonia and hydrogen cyanide², and people who are exposed to secondhand smoke are inhaling many of the same cancer-causing substances and poisons as smokers³; and

Whereas, Numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution and that breathing secondhand smoke is a cause of disease in healthy nonsmokers⁴, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease and lung cancer²; and

Whereas, The 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, "*The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*," concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; ventilation and other air cleaning technologies cannot eliminate exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke; and smokefree workplace policies are the only effective way to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure in the workplace⁴; and

Whereas, The 2010 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, "*How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease*," determined that even occasional exposure to secondhand smoke is harmful⁵; and

Whereas, There are serious questions about the safety of inhaling the substances in some e-cigarette aerosol, and e-cigarettes have not been subject to thorough, independent testing, making it difficult for users to be sure of what they are actually inhaling. And some studies have shown that some e-cigarettes can cause short-term lung changes and irritations and the long-term health effects, are unknown¹⁰; and

Whereas, For every nine smokers who die, one nonsmoker dies from exposure to secondhand smoke⁶; and

Whereas, Approximately half of Alaska's population is not protected by a smokefree workplace law⁷; and

Whereas, Among those who work primarily indoors, young adults aged 18 to 29 are significantly less likely to be protected by a smokefree indoor workplace policy than other Alaskan adults⁸; and

Whereas, Research in communities where smokefree laws have been adopted has consistently shown neutral or positive economic effects to the hospitality industry following a smokefree workplace requirement⁹; and

Whereas, Smokefree workplace laws protect people from secondhand smoke⁴, reduce tobacco use overall and reduce health care costs⁶; and

Whereas, all Alaskans have the right to breathe smokefree air;

THEREFORE, we, the undersigned support a law in Alaska to make all workplaces 100% smokefree to protect the health and safety of all workers and visitors from the dangers of secondhand smoke.

Organization: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____ Title _____

Organization Phone Number: _____ Contact Email: _____

Sources:

1. U.S. Surgeon General, *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease*, 2010.
2. American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, *The Facts About Secondhand Smoke*, 2012.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Health Effects of Secondhand Smoke*, www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/secondhand_smoke/health_effects/#lung.
4. U.S. Surgeon General, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Secondhand Smoke*, 2006.
5. U.S. Surgeon General, *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease Fact Sheet*, 2010, www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/tobaccosmoke/factsheet.html.
6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Years of Potential Life Lost, and Productivity Losses—United States, 2000–2004*. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 2008; 57(45):1226–8.
7. Tobacco Program Records, 2012 and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development 2011 Population estimates. www.almis.labor.state.ak.us/pop/popest.htm.
8. Alaska Department of Health and Human Services, 2012 Alaska Tobacco Facts, 2012.
9. Eriksen, Michael & Frank Chaloupka. *The Economic Impact of Clean Indoor Air Laws*. CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians. 2007. <http://caonline.amcancersoc.org/cgi/content/full/57/6/367>.
10. American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, *Commonly Asked Questions about Electronic Cigarettes*, 2014.