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OREGON HOUSE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY OF CHARLES S. TAUMAN, PRESIDENT OF TOBACCO FREE COALITION OF OREGON BEFORE OREGON HOUSE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF HB 4073 AND HB 4115

My name is Chuck Tauman and I am the President of the Tobacco Free Coalition of Oregon (TOFCO), a 501c(3) Oregon nonprofit statewide anti-tobacco advocacy organization. TOFCO supports HB 4073 and HB 4115 because of a concern about the widespread use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) in Oregon and the lack of information about the effects of this use on Oregon's youth and on those subject to second-hand exposure.

TOFCO has conducted no independent scientific research on these issues and therefore relies on the most credible sources of information to formulate this position.

The US Centers for Disease Control

The percentage of U.S. middle and high school students who use electronic cigarettes, or e-cigarettes, more than doubled from 2011 to 2012, according to data published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Nicotine is a highly addictive drug. Many teens who start with e-cigarettes may be condemned to struggling with a lifelong addiction to nicotine and conventional cigarettes.

http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2013/p0228_electronic_cigarettes.html

The American Cancer Society

Safety and Cessation Concerns

There is currently no scientific evidence about the safety of e-cigarettes. In initial lab tests, FDA found detectable levels of carcinogens (nitrosamines) and toxic chemicals, including an ingredient used in anti-freeze, in two brands of e-cigarettes and numerous cartridges. FDA determined that users could potentially be exposed to these chemicals. This contradicts manufacturers' claims that their products are safe alternatives to tobacco.

E-cigarettes have not been approved by the FDA for use in smoking cessation. No evidence exists to show they help people quit smoking.⁸

More research on e-cigarettes is needed to determine what ingredients they contain, how they are being used, and what effect they have on users.

<http://acscan.org/content/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/e-cigarette.pdf>

The American Heart Association

The evidence is increasingly clear that e-cigarettes are particularly appealing to children and youth, likely because they, unlike conventional cigarettes, are available in a wide variety of appealing flavors, including fruit, chocolate and candy.

<http://newsroom.heart.org/news/fda-must-act-now-on-e-cigarettes-says-american-heart-association>

The American Lung Association

A study has estimated that there are 250 different e-cigarette brands for sale in the U.S. today. There is likely to be wide variation in the chemicals that each contain, but in initial lab tests conducted by the FDA in 2009, detectable levels of toxic cancer-causing chemicals were found, including an ingredient used in anti-freeze, in two leading brands of e-cigarettes and 18 various cartridges. Also unknown is what the potential harm may be to people exposed to secondhand emissions from e-cigarettes. Two initial studies have found formaldehyde, benzene and tobacco-specific nitrosamines (a carcinogen) coming from those secondhand emissions. While there is a great deal more to learn about these products, it is clear that there is much to be concerned about. <http://www.lung.org/stop-smoking/tobacco-control-advocacy/federal/e-cigarettes.html>

The Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids urges . . . the states to apply their laws governing cigarettes and other tobacco products to e-cigarettes. We have already seen e-cigarettes being marketed to non-smokers and in ways that once again make smoking appear glamorous, especially to youth, and in ways that could discourage smokers from quitting or lead smokers to use both cigarettes and e-cigarettes. States should apply their laws governing tobacco products to e-cigarettes:

- E-cigarettes should be included in smoke-free laws both to protect non-users from possible harm caused by exposure to e-cigarette emissions and to facilitate enforcement of these laws.
- States should prohibit e-cigarette sales to minors.
- States should apply the same sales restrictions to e-cigarettes that they apply to cigarettes, such as requiring a government-issued photo ID before sale, permitting sales only in face-to-face transaction and requiring that e-cigarettes be kept behind the counter and not in self-service displays.

<http://tobaccofreecampus.org/sites/default/files/resources/TFK%20E%20cigarettes%20Policy%20Statement%20FINAL%207-17-13.pdf>

TOFCO supports HB 4115 for its comprehensive approach to e-cigarette regulation. TOFCO support HB 4073 as the minimum approach of banning e-cigarettes for those under 18 years of age.