



National Vapers Club
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Oregon Legislators,

My name is Spike Babaian. I am the founder of National Vapers Club, an advocacy group and support network based in New York. We represent tens of thousands of e-cigarette consumers nationally and a few hundred in Oregon. I am an unpaid volunteer with this organization. There is ample evidence which suggests e-cigarettes are not toxic to bystanders (see - <http://vapersclub.com/science.php>). National Vapers Club strongly opposes any legislation that restricts adult use of e-cigarettes, as we believe they are saving lives. We are writing to ask that you OPPOSE legislation which would include electronic cigarette use in the definition of smoking. Below is our reasoning for this request.

An electronic cigarette heats (steams) a liquid with small amounts of nicotine, turning it into a vapor to be inhaled. After the nicotine is absorbed, the excess vapor is exhaled and quickly dissipates. The carrier ingredient is propylene glycol (PG), the same carrier fluid used in some medicinal inhalers. Inhalation of PG has been shown to prevent lung infection since the 1940's. PG is also the same ingredient found in theatrical fog machines for visual effect, hospital ventilation systems for sanitization, children's liquid medication and many common household products.

In 2011, our organization commissioned a study (www.IVAQS.com) to compare e-cigarette vapor to secondhand smoke. **The results showed that in contrast to tobacco smoke, vapor from electronic cigarettes presents "no significant risk" with subchronic or chronic exposure by inhalation.** Results were published online in October 2012 (in print Dec 2012). The article can be found in the peer-reviewed scientific journal Inhalation Toxicology (<http://informahealthcare.com/doi/abs/10.3109/08958378.2012.724728>). Since that time, numerous studies have been published which show similar results.

E-cigarettes do not produce smoke. They also do not produce carbon monoxide or tar... two of the most hazardous byproducts in secondhand smoke. They work the same way that the Nicotrol inhaler (or any other inhaler) works by allowing the user to inhale a vapor. The only major difference is that similar to a nebulizer, the vapor is visible with an e-cigarette because it is heated/steamed. Neither the nicotine inhaler, nor the nicotine nasal spray is restricted to use in areas where smoking is permitted and it would be ludicrous to do so.

You can see here... <http://www.vapersclub.com/TSNAchart.jpg> that based on the [FDA's study](#), the "cancer causing agents" in e-cigarettes are at the same level as in the nicotine patch. These compounds were tested for in the IVAQS study and a toxicology analysis showed the levels detected in the vapor

were not significant enough to cause harm to a child or an adult with either part time or full time exposure to the vapor.

Thousands of National Vapers Club members will tell you that after trying the patch, the gum, the inhaler, Chantix, hypnosis, laser treatment, support groups or even watching a loved one die of lung cancer, this product was the only thing that proved to be an effective substitute. The number of e-cigarette users is estimated to be over 5 million and grows exponentially every day. E-cigarette users (vapers) are very passionate about these products. **Restricting use of this product might send many recently former smokers back to combustible tobacco and would certainly put them unfairly in the path of secondhand smoke to use a smokefree product which is not shown to pose any risk to those around them.**

Legislating behavior based on fear mongering rather than fact is becoming a common practice in today's government and particularly in tobacco control. Our goal as an organization is to educate the public with science and the truth and make sure that the option to choose a better alternative remains available to those unwilling or unable to quit.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to present you with the facts.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have or if you would like further documentation. Many additional e-cigarette studies can be found here...

<http://vapersclub.com/science.php>

You may also reach the lead researcher on the published paper we commissioned, Dr. Timothy McAuley, at mcauleyt@airqualitychange.com or at 518 636 3427.

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