

House Committee
Human Services and Housing

Re: HB 4115

To concerned committee members:

Thank you for taking the time to review this submitted information. My name is Taylor Jones. I was allowed to briefly speak on 2/5/14 at the public hearing on HB4073 and HB4115. I am a graduate of the University of Oregon, with a degree in Microbiology. I worked for multiple years under Dr. Karen Guillemin, in her bacterial-host interaction lab. I am well versed in scientific literature, and have the ability to sift through and assess pertinent information. I have read most of the current literature on the topic of vaping and electronic cigarettes. I would like to do a review of more of it for you, but I want this letter to be read in its entirety, so I will keep it to a couple salient points that should be of value in helping you to decide to vote yes for HB4073 and no on HB4115.

HB4115 inappropriately classifies second hand vapor with second hand smoke. These two by-products of completely different nicotine delivery systems are worlds apart in risk factors to bystanders, as well as users. A recent study conducted by Igor Burstyn of Drexel University has unequivocally shown that, "There was no evidence of potential for exposures of e-cigarette users to contaminants that are associated with risk to health at a level that would warrant attention if it were an involuntary workplace exposures." The full paper can be reviewed here:

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/14/18/abstract>.

Diethylene glycol has been eradicated out of the e-liquid (refill liquid for personal vaporizers) manufactured in America. It was completely replaced by propylene glycol. In a University of Chicago study published in January of 2014, researchers found no harm from prolonged exposure to air saturated with propylene glycol, the report stated, "The results of these experiments in conjunction with the absence of any observed ill effects in patients exposed to both triethylene glycol and propylene glycol vapors for months at a time, provide assurance that air containing these vapors in amounts up to the saturation point is completely harmless." They performed these tests on mammals (with very similar physiology of the lungs and cardiovascular systems to those of humans). This scientific literature was published in an accredited academic journal and can be found here:

<http://jpet.aspetjournals.org/content/91/1/52.abstract> .

More full bodied and up-to-date research of this burgeoning industry is close to being published, and a lot of currently published (more recent) papers can be found by following the link after this paragraph. This makes it very clear that to implement a bill that would include vaporized nicotine (vape) under Oregon Clean Air Act is preemptive and unnecessary, this is not a situation that requires emergency action. Here are links to relevant, current, and future science articles:

<http://onvaping.com/the-ultimate-list-of-studies-on-e-cigarettes-and-their-safety/>

<http://www.aemsa.org/aemsa-sponsors-clinical-study/>

Rep. Barnhart made claims about carcinogen constituents based on an outdated study that was done using equipment and fluids that were made in an outdated mode and are no longer a part of the mainstream, grassroots (not tobacco industry affiliated) supply chain. He listed dangers of nitrosamines

(known in the industry as “whole tobacco alkaloids”) and of diethylene glycol as the reasons to include vapor into the Oregon Clean Air act. The above listed studies show that this is not found in a survey of up-to-date market products. Banning e-cig use and the proper method of vape shop operation due to his irrelevant and erroneous basis for drafting the bill as he did would be similar to stopping Kia dealerships from letting people test drive their new cars (with all their inherent safety upgrades) because Yugo’s and Pinto’s were hazards on the road when they were made with outdated practices.

The grassroots community we have here in Oregon extends to all of the Vape Shops. The owners are also citizens, people, not big tobacco derivative corporations. These vendors want to carry the highest quality products that they can find and most have their customers’ interests at heart as a part of their business mission. One thing that is helping this mission move along and become more robust is a move toward AEMSA (American E-liquid Manufacture Standards Association; www.AEMSA.org) certification in the manufacturing side of the vape industry. AEMSA standards have been built on the available science about e-liquid components, and has a framework setup to hold manufactures accountable to clean environments, purity of product, truth in labeling (nicotine strength and ingredient listing), and safety of constituents. AEMSA certification is a monitored (both announced and unannounced) process that happens over a sufficient period of time to ensure that all members have compliance built into their modus operandi at all times, ensures that products are free of the harmful constituents Rep. Barnhart and his affiliates are so concerned about protecting people from and goes even further to limit other things such as; what may be used as flavors etc. These standards also ensure traceability and transparency in pertinent components. This provides the community and the consumer with a higher level of confidence that the vapor they ingest and expel lacks the potentially dangerous arbitants of some liquids of days gone by. Davis county in Utah has already used AEMSA standards to draft it’s own regulations and this would be a better solution to address quality in our state.

Another important factor to consider is that we have and continue to see nicotine usage drop. At Vape Game, 0mg, 3mg, 6mg, 9mg, 12mg, 18mg, and 24mg level liquids are produced. Five months ago, the level of 0mg constituted slightly less than 10% of all fluids produced and sold, this has risen to about 18% on average. There has also been a significant shift in sales from the 18mg and 24mg varieties to the 6mg and 12mg liquids. Also, flavoring is an important part of the transition from the cigarettes we know to be dangerous, to vapor, besides the extreme difference in vapor inhalation from e-cigs vs soot inhalation from combustion powered cigarettes, the flavors make going back for the occasional cigarette much less enticing, and certainly less frequent, as most find the flavor and smell virtually unbearable after having used the vapor inhalation method for any length of time.

I implore you to further acquaint yourself with more current research that can be found on <http://onvaping.com/the-ultimate-list-of-studies-on-e-cigarettes-and-their-safety/>, http://www.casaa.org/Tobacco_Harm_Reduction.html, and <http://www.aemsa.org/links/> websites. They all list links to pertinent full bodied research being done in the field pertaining to human health concerns.

Please take all this information under consideration and make the appropriate decision to follow the available evidence. HB4115 includes way to much economy damaging regulation that isn’t warranted by

the facts.

I appreciate your time and concern,

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