

Hi everyone,

I just wanted to express my concerns about the bills currently being discussed regarding the use of electronic cigarettes. HB 4073 I fully agree with. Concerns of e-cigarettes getting into the hands of minors is not something any one wants to see, as we wouldn't with any drug or alcohol. Where my concern lies is with 4115, and the banning e-cigarette use in all places cigarettes are prohibited.

As a former smoker, when the bill was passed in Oregon banning cigarette smoke from businesses indoors, I got it. Second hand smoke is bad, it makes things smell bad, it can make people sick. I was happy to take my cigarettes outside for the consideration of others. Working or eating somewhere smogged down with cigarette smoke is not a fun experience.

This is one of the many advantages of e cigarettes. The vapor doesn't smell bad, the vapor doesn't leave your walls stained with yellow. Research has found the second hand vapor doesn't pose a threat. I've attached a link to a very thorough article from the Drexel School of Public Health with much information about electronic cigarettes. In the article, the author states:

"Even when compared to workplace standards for involuntary exposures, and using several conservative (erring on the side of caution) assumptions, the exposures from using e-cigarettes fall well below the threshold for concern for compounds with known toxicity. That is, even ignoring the benefits of e-cigarette use and the fact that the exposure is actively chosen, and even comparing to the levels that are considered unacceptable to people who are not benefiting from the exposure and do not want it, the exposures would not generate concern or call for remedial action."

Using e-cigarettes in doors should be up to the owner of the establishment. Making cigarette use outside makes sense, because it's bad for the people around you. Vapor has been so far proven that it does not contain compounds that would harm others. E-cigarettes have helped me, and many, many others, including my father, a life long smoker, quit or reduce the amount of cigarettes consumed a day and thus reducing the risk of cancer and other diseases. Being able to use them indoors (to the digression of the business owner) is, and would continue to be a huge draw for those trying to make the switch from traditional cigarettes to a better alternative.

Thanks for your time, and please check out the link to the PDF file below.

<http://publichealth.drexel.edu/~media/Files/publichealth/ms08.pdf>

Also, if you have any other questions for a person who has switched from traditional cigarettes to electronic cigarettes, I'd be more than happy to oblige.

Jonah Rose