

Dear \*insert title and name here\*,

My name is Robert Andrade and I am writing you with the sincerest of hopes that you vote no on HB 4115 which would restrict where personal vaporizers can be used. I feel that this restriction would be detrimental to the health of not only current users of these devices, but also to the health and welfare of current cigarette smokers who want to quit but have yet to discover these wonderful cessation aids. I am cognizant of how busy you are and will attempt to keep this as short as possible, however I would like to go over a few points I feel need to be addressed before you make your decision on HB 4115.

First off, smoking bans have been put in place to protect non-smokers from the harmful effects of burning tobacco by way of secondhand smoke. These restrictions are justified and no doubt have had the intended effect. The problem with tacking personal vaporizers onto this existing ban is that they have not been shown to cause any more harm to bystanders than breathing the outside air around a city such as Portland, Eugene, or Salem. There have been many published reviews such as those done by, Dr. Igor Burstyn of Drexel University School of Public Health, Dr. Lynne Dawkins of University of East London, Dr. Theodor Wagener of University of Oklahoma, and Dr. Luepker of University of Minnesota Epidemiology and Community Health, just to name a few. All of these studies have shown "no apparent concern" for bystanders exposed to e-cigarette vapor, even under "worst case" scenarios concerning exposure. By these studies, there is no health related reason to put a ban on e-cigarettes, other than the personal preference of a few, and has no conclusive medical backing to support that a ban would increase public health.

Secondly, should this unnecessary regulation pass it would take electronic cigarettes off the streets and out of the public eye. Current tobacco smokers, who have a strong desire to make a healthier choice will never get the opportunity to make the switch to a healthier lifestyle. There are many adults who still know little if anything about these devices and most of those who do are not informed enough to make a decision about them. There have been countless times when I was out, using my personal vaporizer and a smoker has come up to me to ask me about them and if they work to quit smoking. My answer is yes and I am proof (but I'll get to that point in a minute). I explain how they work, the different types, engage them in a conversation about their personal needs and how they too can succeed at quitting. I even point them to the wonderful review titled: "A fresh look at tobacco harm reduction: the case for the electronic cigarette" listed here: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3850892/>. Which goes into great length about what electronic cigarettes are, how they are built, what they contain and why they are a good choice. By the end of their inquiry, I feel confident that they have enough information to continue their research and make an informed decision as to purchasing one for themselves and living a healthier lifestyle, and many have chosen to do just that. With this restriction

however, we would be removing vaping from the public eye and therefore taking away the chance for many people to quit smoking; which is what we have been asked to do for decades by health agencies and government alike.

I have been a non-smoker for over a year. I started smoking when I was 8 years old. I wanted to be like everyone else around me who smoked, including my mom. I watched many of those same people die due to cancer of one form or another related to the plethora of disgusting chemicals associated with burning a cigarette that were introduced into their bodies along with the nicotine. I tried quitting many times using many forms of cessation techniques from gum to patches to hypnosis and cold turkey. None of them worked for me and I would end up smoking again. Then about two years ago, after 40 years of smoking traditional cigarettes I walked into a local pharmacy and saw my first electronic cigarette. I was intrigued by it and went home where I sat at my computer and discovered vaping support groups, forums for researching the subject, social websites for the vaping community. I poured over the information for hours and hours, I knew I was going to see my doctor that week and wrote a list of questions. My doctor and I spoke for hours on the subject and when I was done I knew that vaping was worth trying. I found one of the few shops that was open in the area at that time and after 2 hours of discussion I walked away with a personal vaporizer. I and my family are happy that I did. Within a week I could smell things more deeply, I could taste things better and thusly enjoy foods more, I could breathe...this is important...I could breathe. My stamina has improved, my concentration has improved and I am so much happier overall. My son enjoys being with me.

If this proposed ban had been in place two years ago things would have gone differently and I would be another victim of the smoking industry. I know that there are many more people like myself that just need the opportunity to ask questions in an environment where users of personal vaporizers are not stigmatized for making the healthier choice. Removing the electronic cigarettes from the public eye and associating electronic cigarettes/personal vaporizers with traditional, chemical laden cigarettes not only takes that opportunity away from them, but does it under the false mask of protecting them.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my thoughts and I hope you make the right decision for the people you represent by voting no on HB4115.

Sincerely,

Robert Andrade

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