

Mr. Reily,

I am writing you on behalf of my self and fellow “e-cigarette” users in regards to SB 190 which would prohibit the shipping and transporting of electronic cigarettes and possibly e-liquid into Oregon.

There are several things wrong with this bill. The first and foremost is that people who vote for this bill are directly and very publicly saying that despite the research that states that using an electronic cigarette is much less (in the 10-20 times on up range) harmful than smoking traditional tobacco cigarettes, that they do not care about the health of Oregonians who have stopped using cancer causing cigarettes. Any one who votes for this bill is also saying that adult individuals who use “e-cigarettes” are incapable about making informed decision about where and how they wish to purchase these products.

As a pack a day smoker for over 20 years, “e-cigarettes,” saved my life. I have no scientific data to back up my statement. All I have is my personal testimony that I had a chronic smokers “hack.” That is gone. I used to be out of breath from a flight of stairs. I walk and jog with my dog now. My blood pressure has gone down, my heart rate is better. All of the things that someone who quits smoking gets to experience I did also.

As a drug and alcohol counselor I could tell you the reasons why complete abstinence for many is simply not an option, but I simply don’t have the time here for that education. Suffice it to say that harm reduction is a much better option for many. And “E-cigarettes” represent the ultimate in harm reduction. People who make claims about the toxins in the vapor don’t mention the amount. Recent research indicates that the amount of toxins present in “e-cigarettes,” is barely above that of air. Are the toxins present...absolutely. Are they present in an amount that endangers people...no.

By restricting the way that people can get e-liquids, and other e-cigarette items, you are reducing the availability of a life saving product to people who might not otherwise have access to it. In essence, by allowing “E-cigarettes” to stay on this bill and allowing it to pass, your actions will have direct impact on people and if those e-cigarettes are not available people will return to tobacco use. I hope I don’t need to educate you on the dangers of that.

All that the people in the state house and senate need to do is one thing. Don’t allow sales to minors. Then stop. Don’t regulate further, allow businesses to make their own informed decisions as to whether or not to allow e-cigarettes in their establishments, and allow adult consumers to make their own informed decisions about what’s best for their personal health.

There are several other things that need to be addressed in regards to e-cigarettes, but will have to wait. Suffice it to say every time I see another bill come up about another regulation for the e-cigarette community I can’t help but wonder if anyone in the legislator take time to read anything but the polls.

It’s too bad that the people who put these bills forward don’t take the time to address the impact it will have for the people it affects. Please pass this along with my wishes that all the legislator

stop addressing this non-issue (aside from the sale to minors) and move along to more important matters that make a real difference.

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Rick Baumgartle BS CADCI