

Dear Committee Members

My name is Catherine Kaiser and I am writing today, March 6th of 2015 in opposition to SB 190.

I am 62 year old who smoked for 45 years of my life. I started using open system e-cigarettes 6 months ago after years of trying all available treatments numerous times including, nicotine gum, nicotine patches, Chantex, Burpotion and even the closed system e-cigarettes I obtained at my local Walgreens. I had given up hope of ever getting off cigarettes. I have two precious Grandsons ages 5 and 6 and desperately wanted to spend as much time as I can with them to love them and be a good role model to them while they grow and prosper in their lives. I decided to try the new open system e-cigarettes as a last ditch effort to be able to be with them and the rest of my family and friends for as long as possible as these people are an extremely important part of my life and bring so much joy and love in my life. I knew I was slowly killing myself through smoking, knowing what the death toll rate of continuing to smoke was. It was also very important to me to not subject the people I love so much to the possibility of having to watch me die a painful and horrible death as I had to do with my father who died as a direct result of smoking cigarettes. Even after that horrid experience I still continued to smoke.

I greatly understand the need for the state to generate revenue, but I ask you what is more important, taxes or lives saved? In my opinion the more lives that you save by making access to e-cigarettes less restrictive to adults will over the long term will generate more revenue by keeping people alive longer. This legislation may also create a black market in the e-cigarette world, which many teens will be a part of, that will be filled by undesirable people and possibly a criminal element as guns and drugs do now and will create no revenue for the state at all.

I also appreciate the Department of Justices' concern for the sale of e-cigarettes to minors. All the many internet web sites I have dealt with have age verification pages and also require a credit card to pay for the items. A statement was made that the Internet offers minors relatively easy access to tobacco. It also offers relatively easy access to pornography and other corrupt information that may have an extremely negative influence on their lives. Why single out e-cigarettes? Shouldn't we be more concerned about the items I mentioned above? Requiring face to face sales will not remedy teen use of anything they are determined to use or do. Research has shown that education of the perils work best to curb teens use of these things.

This bill would also seriously hurt the state economy in the fact that a lot of e-cigarette shops located in Oregon sell their e-cigarette items and e-liquid on line. One of the major ones is I believe EC Blends in Medford that I watched testify at the public hearing on HB 2546 and stated they employ around 100 people. This bill would put a lot of Brick and Mortar and E-Commerce Stores out of business costing hundreds of jobs in Oregon and in turn costing the state thousands in tax revenue. The original draft of the FDA deeming regulations was worded to ban internet sales of e-cigarettes but the White House's Office of Management and Budget revised the original draft because of the potential economic consequences of proposed regulations. It also weakened language detailing the FDA's concerns about the safety of e-cigarettes.

I live on a fixed income and it is very important to me to be able to shop for competitive prices of an alternate way to save money and replace smoking cigarettes that have been proven to contain over 4000 deadly chemicals. I am also aware that e-cigarettes are not 100% safe either but I know they do not contain but a few chemicals that may be harmful which has to be better than over 4000.

In my conclusion of my testimony I would like to ask this question to you the members of the committee. Why would you want to burden an industry that has the potential to save lives and make combustible cigarettes obsolete?

Very Respectfully,

Catherine Kaiser

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