

# Multnomah County Board of Commissioners

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 600  
Portland, OR 97214  
District1@multco.us  
503-988-5220



March 23, 2015

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB 2546 as passed by the House, and without exemption. I was proud to vote with my colleagues in unanimous approval to ban the sale of electronic cigarettes and vaping paraphernalia to minors, and to prohibit indoor use in workplaces in Multnomah County.

The changing landscape of nicotine use among middle and high school students has been studied and documented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration. The rising rate of electronic cigarette use among youth is a clear public health concern, and we need to establish a legal age limit for purchasing or possessing vaping devices. Nicotine exposure during adolescence has been proven to affect brain development, and the public has established a regulatory framework around tobacco products. With the development of vaping technology, that framework must be expanded to include all inhalant delivery systems.

A public health equity lens and the precautionary principle call for the expansion of the Indoor Clean Air Act to include vaping devices. Inclusion within the Indoor Clean Air Act will help to more clearly align electronic cigarette use with cigarettes, and help prevent exposure to and use by young people.

I believe behavioral change and public health priorities are best accomplished statewide, and not as a patchwork of jurisdictional action. **I urge your support of HB 2546.**

My understanding is that there has been some discussion of a legislative exemption to the indoor clean air act for vape shops. I believe a very limited exemption only for sampling of in-store products, and only for non-nicotine containing liquids is in keeping with our public health goals. However, in order to enforce the age limits for possession and sale, and any qualifications on sampling exemptions, retail licensure of tobacco and electronic cigarette retailers is essential. Licensure is the only way to know what stores are selling tobacco and vaping products and to ensure adherence to the law. That issue will be discussed in another bill and in another committee, and I believe any exemptions are best debated in that context.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony. Again, I urge your support of HB 2546.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jules Bailey", written over a white background.

Jules Bailey