

**House Revenue Committee
April 6th, 2015
Support of HB 2074 and HB 2134**

The Coalition of Local Health Officials supports HB 2074 and HB 2134.

Enacting a tax on vapor products is the right thing to do for Oregon.

There is a pressing need for regulation of these vapor products and that regulation will cost money. It makes sense to raise that revenue from the use of these products.

As vapor products have become more popular the accidental poisonings have skyrocketed and recently a small child died from ingesting the juice in an e-cigarette product. This highlights the need for common-sense product safety regulations to protect Oregonians.

Currently these products are sold without any regulation: no required warning labels, no child-safety mechanism, and we don't know who is selling these products and to whom. While some of these issues are addressed in HB 2546A, a tax regulation would be a complimentary regulating mechanism. Taxation is also an important tool to better understand the market and potentially deter youth use of these products.

There is evidence that these products are becoming more popular with youth and potentially serving as an introduction to a lifelong addiction to nicotine. CLHO would recommend that any tax on vapor products would have a tax high enough to discourage youth use and allocate a percentage of the revenue raised to prevention of youth use to parallel to what has been done with tobacco products and other tobacco products in the Tobacco Use Reduction Account.

We urge your support of HB 2074 and HB 2134.

Thank you,

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Coalition of Local Health Officials

