

**From:** Catherine Kaiser  
**To:** [LRO](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose HB 2037  
**Date:** Thursday, March 09, 2017 8:15:57 AM

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House Committee on Revenue  
900 Court St. NE-HR A  
Salem, Oregon 97301

## Please Oppose HB 2037

Dear Chair Barnhart and Committee Members

My name is Catherine Kaiser and I would like to let you know how passionate vaping is to me. When I saw what the Legislature and all the vaping bills this year are trying to do to make it so unaffordable and hard to get, I sat down and bawled my eyes out, true story.

I am an ex-smoker of 45yrs. I have not smoke another cigarette for over 2 and a half years. The day I started vaping with the new 2nd and 3rd vaping gear I never craved or smoked a cigarette again. I am very strongly opposed to all of the vaping bills that are in committees this year as vaping is extremely important to me as It has allowed me to not smoke deadly cigarettes. If you were in mine and millions of others shoes you would understand why being able to afford to vape and how important this is for us. Since I started vaping over two years ago **I have cut the nicotine in my e-liquid from 24mg to zero nicotine**, but still am able to obtain the hand to mouth ritual that was imbedded in me when I smoked for 45yrs. You don't have the opportunity to go to zero nicotine with cigarettes.

### **I feel you need to separate vaping from tobacco and put vaping in completely separate category of its own.**

I feel it is not justifiable for us vapers to be clumped into the same category as smoking because smoking causes cancer and vaping does not. I cannot find any data on people dying from vaping. **Cigarettes contain over 4000 chemicals, 43 known carcinogens and 400 toxins. The science states that it is not the nicotine that kills, it is the tar that sticks to your lungs.** Vaping has been proven to be at least 95% less harmful that cigarettes and there are many new reputable, peer reviewed science studies out that prove this and these scientists have no agenda as to how the outcome will be. There are also studies out there that are old and not reputable and have been debunked . I have yet to figure why the Health Care Organizations want to keep quoting these bad science reports. I thought we are all working toward the same goal, which is to get people off cigarettes and stop all the related deaths it causes like it did my Dads and my Brothers and many other family members.

I am asking you to please put our health and our Adult choices above trying to obtain more revenue from vaping. I am living on a fixed income and got a \$4 raise on my retirement

Social Security this year and none last year. It saddens me to see all the taxes you are trying to impose on vaping. This could cause vaping to go underground which would mean that Oregon will get less, or no tax money coming in and will put people's lives in jeopardy by possibly obtaining products that are not safe. I don't want to be forced to buy unsafe products which will put even more burden on our health care system if people get sick or die from using the unsafe products. If vape shops shut down it will also create even more burden on the system because people will be un-employed, there will be empty store fronts and people will lose the ability to keep on vaping unless the drive or fly to a more vape friendly state. It will also be detrimental to the people who still smoke to be able to have another choice to try to quit along with all the Pharmaceuticals. They need to have as many choices as possible.

I suppose you heard what happened in Pennsylvania this year. They imposed a 40% tax and over a hundred shops closed before it even passed because they knew they could not stay in business. Many more will be following. Now they are getting zero of 40% tax dollars from the closed shops.

For the millions of Americans who find it difficult to quit smoking or are unwilling to forgo nicotine, the answer should not be "quit or die." Instead, policymakers would improve both public health and job creation by embracing a message of harm reduction paired with a respect for consumer choice.

I will end by saying, I hope the voice of Oregonians matter and you take their concerns seriously about this issue.

Thank you for reading this as it means more to me than you will ever know.

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