

Dear Public Health Committee Member:

I'm writing to urge you to vote **no on SB 990**, the bill to ban the use of e-cigarettes anywhere smoking is prohibited.

It seems that the special-interest groups pushing to ban the use of e-cigarettes indoors want people to believe there's something mysterious about the vapor from electronic cigarettes. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, we know a great deal more about what's in an e-cigarette than we know about what's in a real cigarette.

First and foremost, we know that e-cigarettes don't produce any smoke, so one would be hard-pressed to justify their inclusion in a smoking ban. No smoke, no flame, no ash, no butts, no tar, no carbon monoxide, no smoky odor, and no thousands of byproducts of combustion. Numerous studies on e-cigarette vapor have failed to identify any harm to the consumer, much less to bystanders. I can attest to this, since I smoked for more than 30 years. Four years ago this month, I switched to an e-cigarette, and my lung function has improved dramatically.

Please, don't put needless obstacles in the way of former smokers who have switched to this far safer alternative and, especially, in the way of current smokers who might. There is no scientific, health-related, or even aesthetic reason to ban vaping indoors. Without such a reason, the decision of whether or not to allow vaping is surely best left to business owners.

What follows are some pertinent quotes from experts in science, health, tobacco, and tobacco harm reduction about this issue (emphasis mine). I urge you to consider the facts and vote **no on SB 990**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Clewell

## **QUOTES FROM THE EXPERTS ABOUT INDOOR USE OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES**

*Second hand mist from an e-cigarette is not smoke at all, and does not contain any substance known to cause death, short or long term, in the quantities found. It becomes invisible within a few seconds, and is not detectable by smell.*

*Exhaled breath after e-cigarette use has been tested for CO only. No increase in CO was found.*

*The e-cigarette does not create side-stream smoke.*

*Exhaled breath after e-smoking contains even less nicotine per puff, as much of the nicotine inhaled is absorbed. Similarly, propylene glycol is largely absorbed and little is exhaled.*

*No harm found in e-cigarette mist.*

-- Dr. Murray Laugesen, Health New Zealand. Raman Minhas, technical officer of WHO's Tobacco Free Initiative, says, "Dr. Laugesen is a respected tobacco control researcher."

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*All that's happening is you're heating up a liquid to the point of becoming a vapor. So referring to it as smoke doesn't make sense at all. Therefore, considering it subject to a smoking ban doesn't really make sense, either.*

-- Dr. David Baron, former Chief of Staff at UCLA Medical Center

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*As one who experiences severe headaches, sneezing, watery eyes and other sinus problems from exposure to very little secondhand tobacco smoke (a key reason I've been an outspoken smokefree indoor policy/law activist since 1986), I'm delighted and relieved to report that I experienced **NO adverse reactions during or after my mega exposure to e-cigarette vapor.***

— William T. Godshall, Executive Director, Smokefree Pennsylvania, from a report on attending a conference for electronic cigarette consumers

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***There is no existing evidence that e-cigarettes pose a risk for nonsmokers.** The nicotine exposure from the exhaled vapor produced is likely to be extremely small and there is no reason to think that it poses a danger for nonsmokers. But there is certainly no evidence to suggest that it poses a hazard.*

-- Dr. Michael Siegel, Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Boston University School of Public Health, who also has 25 years of experience in Tobacco Control

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***The claim that the trivial amount of vapor would be much of a risk seems ridiculously far-fetched.***

-- Dr. Carl Phillips, epidemiologist, tobacco harm reduction researcher

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*There is substantial and compelling scientific research documenting that consuming the ingredients in e-cigarettes (nicotine, propylene glycol, water and flavors) is vastly safer than burning tobacco and inhaling 3000+ toxic by-products. **Claiming that e-cigarettes are dangerous for non-smokers is about as credible as claiming that air travel is dangerous for people who never set foot in an airplane.***

-- Dr. Brad Rodu, Professor of Medicine at the University of Louisville