

I am a Connecticut voter writing to you to voice my opinion on electronic cigarettes.

I do not believe that the state should pass regulations restricting them in any way until the FDA has finalized and enacted its proposed Federal regulations. New state legislation should only be considered if Connecticut then believes that further restrictions are warranted.

I understand why people want to ban electronic cigarettes. From their name alone, they sound like a clever loophole insidiously designed to circumvent existing laws. But electronic cigarettes are not the same as cigarettes. They produce no smoke or odor, posing no public health threat of secondhand smoke.

I started using electronic cigarettes to help quit smoking after my fiancé collapsed her lung. During her recovery, I didn't want to even smell like cigarettes, and electronic cigarettes were cheaper and more physiologically similar to smoking than nicotine gum or patches. While electronic cigarettes are not an approved smoking cessation tool, I personally know over a dozen people who have no intention of attempting to break their nicotine addiction, but have quit smoking tobacco and now use electronic nicotine vaporizers exclusively. The odorless and smokeless nature of electronic cigarettes is seen as advantageous and preferential even to those not actively trying to quit smoking.

Prohibiting the sale and use of electronic cigarettes encourages smokers to continue smoking tobacco products, and encourages all of the personal and public health issues associated with tobacco use.

I would support legislation regulating the manufacturing processes and ingredients found in electronic cigarettes, but not a blanket ban. Even though electronic cigarettes have the word "cigarette" in the name, I believe that the legislature should recognize that they are different and should be regulated differently than traditional tobacco cigarettes.

Please don't force people to choose between quitting using expensive patches and gum, and going back to tobacco cigarettes.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my correspondence.

-Andrew Bowe
Independent,
Mansfield, CT