



Alaska Tobacco Control Alliance

Our Vision: A Tobacco-Free Alaska

Elected Members

Jennifer Adzima
Anchorage Region

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Northern Region, Barrow

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Southwest Region, Kodiak

Jenny Olendorff co-chair
Southcentral Region, Soldotna

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Anchorage

Brian James
Nome

Caroline Nevak
Anchorage

Tiffany Tutiakoff
Anchorage

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Lincoln Bean Sr.
Alaska Native Health Board

Ken Helander
AARP

Jamie Morgan
American Heart Association

Emily Nenon
American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network

Marge Stoneking
American Lung Association

March 24, 2014

Members of the House Health and Social Services Committee
Attn: Rep. Higgins, Chair
Alaska State Legislature

Dear Rep. Higgins and members of the committee:

Since 1991, the Alaska Tobacco Control Alliance (ATCA) has advocated for policies protecting people from the harmful effects of tobacco use and secondhand smoke. As such, we are excited to see that our legislators recognize that **all workers deserve the right to breathe smokefree air.**

We are relieved that e-cigarettes are included in this discussion, as research shows that e-cigarettes do not just emit "harmless water vapor". Specifically, we know that exhaled secondhand aerosol is made up of ultrafine particles with levels higher than in conventional tobacco cigarette smoke and that exposure to these particles are risk factors for asthma and artery constriction leading to heart attacks. For these reasons, national health advocates including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention consider it a best practice to include e-cigarettes in all comprehensive smokefree workplace policies.

For these reasons, across the country, municipalities and states are including e-cigarettes in policies that prohibit their use in smokefree environments. In addition, one cannot tell by looking at an e-cigarette what the e-cartridge contains. There are known instances where e-cigarettes are used as illegal drug delivery devices containing liquid marijuana and heroin.

Thank you for your commitment to the health of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Betty MacTavish, co-chair
Southwest Region

Jenny Olendorff, co-chair
Southcentral Region

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