

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SESSION ADDRESS:  
Alaska State Capitol, Rm. 125  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-2828  
Fax: (907) 465-4779  
Toll Free: (800) 964-5733



INTERIM ADDRESSES:  
145 Main St. Loop #226  
Kenai, AK 99611  
Phone: (907) 283-7996

270 W. Pioneer Ave.  
Homer, AK 99603  
Phone: (907) 235-0690

## SENATOR PETER A. MICCICHE

### SB 209 Sponsor Statement

#### DISTRICTS

#### REGULATION OF SMOKING

*Anchor Point*

*Clam Gulch*

*Cohoe*

*Diamond Ridge*

*Fox River*

*Fritz Creek*

*Funny River*

*Halibut Cove*

*Happy Valley*

*Homer*

*Kachemak City*

*Kachemak Selo*

*Kalifornsky*

*Kasilof*

*Kenai*

*Nikolaevsk*

*Ninilchik*

*Razdolna*

*Ridgeway*

*Seldovia*

*Soldotna*

*Voynesenka*

Senate Bill 209 will protect Alaskans from the well-known health harms of secondhand smoke by amending existing state law to provide comprehensive protection for Alaskan workers and public in all indoor workplaces, businesses and public places. Current law prohibits smoking in healthcare facilities, schools, childcare facilities and public meeting rooms in government buildings, and otherwise provides smoking and non-smoking sections, which we know to be ineffective.

Bethel, Anchorage, Juneau, Barrow, Dillingham, Haines, Skagway, Petersburg, Klawock, Nome, Unalaska, and Palmer have all adopted local smoke-free laws. However, Alaska's remaining large-population centers do not have the legal health powers to enact smoke-free laws as second-class boroughs (Fairbanks North-Star Borough, Mat-Su Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough.) An additional 70,000 Alaskans residing in unorganized areas are also not currently protected. It is therefore up to the Legislature to take the necessary action.

SB 209 is based on current local laws in Anchorage, Juneau, and Palmer, which are well established and well regarded by citizens and businesses. It does not prohibit outdoor smoking, except within certain areas near building entrances/exits, air intakes, and other specifically designated public gathering places as defined in the statute. It does not legislate hiring or employment of smokers or non-smokers. Employers and businesses can still elect to have smoke-free/tobacco-free properties (e.g., smoke-free hospital campuses). Local governments with health powers retain the authority to adopt more restrictive local provisions than the statewide law (e.g., provisions specific to locally popular public gathering places or events).

Four hundred Alaskan businesses and organizations, representing all regions of the state, have already signed on in support of a statewide smoke-free workplace law.