



March 4, 2015

Representative Bob Herron  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK

Dear Representative Herron:

On behalf of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), I am writing in support of House Bill 40. Thank you for bringing the potential hazards of secondhand electronic cigarette aerosol to the public's attention through this legislation.

A growing number of studies have examined the contents of e-cigarette aerosol. Unlike a vapor, an aerosol contains fine particles of liquid, solid, or both. Propylene glycol, nicotine, and flavorings were most commonly found in e-cigarette aerosol. Other studies have found the aerosol to contain heavy metals, volatile organic compounds and tobacco-specific nitrosamines, among other potentially harmful chemicals.

While the health effects of e-cigarettes are currently under study, there are serious questions about the safety of inhaling the substances in e-cigarette aerosol. Studies have shown that the use of e-cigarettes can cause short-term lung changes and irritations, while the long-term health effects are unknown. Both exposure to and health effects of secondhand aerosol from e-cigarettes require further research, but preliminary studies indicate nonusers can be exposed to the same potentially harmful chemicals as users, including nicotine, ultrafine particles and volatile organic compounds.

ACS CAN advocates for comprehensive smoke-free laws in all workplaces to protect workers and the public from the harmful effects of secondhand exposure and to create communities that support tobacco-free living. Electronic cigarettes, or e-cigarettes, including supposed non-nicotine e-cigarettes, should also be prohibited in all workplaces, restaurants, and bars to protect against secondhand exposure to nicotine and other potentially harmful chemicals, to ensure the enforcement of existing smoke-free laws are not compromised, and that the public health benefits of a smoke-free laws are not undermined.

Thank you again for bringing this important issue forward for public discourse, and for your work to protect the health of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

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