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March 11, 2016

The Honorable Peter Micciche
Alaska State Senator
State Capitol Room 514
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Senator Micciche,

It's time for all Alaskans to enjoy smoke-free workplaces. I have been on the staff of two major employers in Fairbanks that enacted smoke-free/tobacco-free policies and noted the positive benefits to all employees – smokers and non-smokers alike.

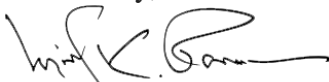
Numerous studies demonstrate a significant reduction in hospital admissions and deaths from cardiac, cerebrovascular and respiratory diseases following implementation of smoke-free workplace laws. The Institute of Medicine summarized these findings in 2009 and reports that heart attack hospital admissions dropped between 6 to 47 percent following smoke-free workplace law implementation.

E-cigarettes are unregulated and it has been reported that hash oil (THC) is being used in the delivery system, which after concentrating and flavoring, you cannot identify the smell. Prohibiting e-cigarettes in workplaces can protect employee health by preventing nonusers from being exposed to harmful chemicals.

Smoking costs Alaska more than \$1 million per year, according to the American Cancer Society. The ACS Cancer Action Network recently released a statewide poll showing that 88 percent of Alaskans believe all Alaska workers should be protected from exposure to secondhand smoke in the workplace. 69 percent favor passage of a law prohibiting smoking in workplaces, public buildings, offices, restaurants and bars.

Senate Bill 1 would require all indoor workplaces to be smoke-free including prohibiting electronic cigarettes. I strongly support this bill and encourage you to pass it. It's time to take smoking outside.

Sincerely,



Michael K. Powers
Chancellor