

March 31, 2015

The Honorable Bill Stoltze  
State Affairs Committee Chair  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol Room 125  
Juneau AK, 99801

Via email [Senator.Bill.Stoltze@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Bill.Stoltze@akleg.gov)

Dear Senator Stoltze,

I am a registered voter in Anchorage and have worked in public health in Alaska for over 30 years. I am writing to ask for your support of SB1 to provide a statewide smoke-free workplace law for businesses and public places.

As a public health professional, I have seen firsthand the health damage and costs of second hand smoke. This law will protect employees, patrons and visitors from the well-documented diseases and premature death caused by secondhand smoke from not only tobacco but also marijuana and e-cigarettes. No one should have to choose between their health and a good job.

A statewide law is needed to ensure health equity for all Alaskans as it relates to protection from the known dangers of second hand smoke. Although tobacco-free businesses and public places laws are in place in many locations across Alaska, due to limitations in local authority a statewide law is required to protect those Alaskans living in areas not able to enact local laws. Currently only half of Alaska's population is covered by a smoke-free workplace law. People living in unincorporated areas of the state deserve the same protection from second hand smoke and its serious health effects.

Anchorage and other areas that have enacted local smoke-free workplace laws have demonstrated it is good for business. My husband and I would avoid establishments that allowed smoking prior to the ban of smoking in bars in Anchorage. We are now able to enjoy patronizing establishments we would never have previously.

Alaskans strongly support smoke-free workplaces, including a majority of current smokers (59%) as well as former smokers (80%). This support is high throughout all regions of Alaska, ranging from 75% to 84%.

Please do the right thing for all Alaskans – ensure their right to smoke-free businesses and public places throughout our great state. Please let me know your position on passage of SB1.

Sincerely,



Beverly K Wooley  
2073 Dimond Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99507-1311  
907-830-5503

**Chuck Kopp**

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**Subject:** FW: Support for SB 1-Regulation of Smoking

**From:** Cherry Schaffan [mailto:[cnschaffan@alaska.edu](mailto:cnschaffan@alaska.edu)]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2015 10:16 PM  
**To:** Sen. Peter Micciche  
**Subject:** Support for SB 1-Regulation of Smoking

7812 Chiami Loop

Anchorage, Alaska 99504

March 30, 2015

Dear Senator Peter A. Micciche,

My name is Cherry N. Schaffan, I am a resident of Anchorage. As a concerned parent and citizen, I believe that second hand smoke has negative consequences on the health and well-being of children and adults alike. I am writing to express my strong support of SB 1-Regulation of Smoking. I would like you to continue supporting SB 1.

As citizens, we have a responsibility of keeping our children and families safe and healthy. We can take steps to protect our loved ones from secondhand smoke by eliminating smoking in homes, work sites, and public places. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention 2015 Fact Sheet estimated that there is approximately 2,500,000 nonsmokers who have died from health problems caused by secondhand smoke. In addition, children exposed to secondhand smoke are more vulnerable to health illness such as severe asthma, respiratory infections, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. In addition, adults who are exposed to secondhand smoke are more prone to developing heart disease, lung cancer, and stroke. Tobacco smoke contains hundreds of toxic chemicals and more than 70 of these chemicals are known to cause cancer.

In addition, a recent poll by the Alaska Tobacco Facts: 2014 Update reported that 9 in 10 Alaska adults agree that people should be protected from secondhand smoke. In fact, 8 in 10 smokers agree that people should be protected from secondhand smoke. This means that SB1-Regulation of Smoking makes sense to many Alaskans and that people are ready for this change to happen. Legislatures should take all the necessary steps in the regulation of smoking.

Please continue supporting SB 1-Regulation of Smoking. Through the passing of this bill we could promote health and safety of our community, and provide a smoke-free environment for all Alaskan generations. If you have questions, I can be reached at (907) 312-4937 or email [cnschaffan@alaska.edu](mailto:cnschaffan@alaska.edu).

Thank you and have a good day!

Respectfully yours,

*Cherry N. Schaffan*

## Daniel George

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**From:** Helene M Antel <[hma@mtaonline.net](mailto:hma@mtaonline.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2015 12:07 PM  
**To:** Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Bill Stoltze  
**Subject:** SBI Smoke Free Workplaces  
**Attachments:** Smoke free workplaces protect working Alaskans - Letters To Editor - Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman.html; ATT00001.htm

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Senators Stoltze & Huggins,

The attached letter to the editor best expresses my feelings about SB 1. I would appreciate any help you could give; the bill needs to be moved quickly out of Committee to the Senate floor. I am hoping you will consider my heartfelt sentiments. I am a constituent of yours, Senator Stoltze, as I live in Senate District F. I am not a direct constituent of yours, Senator Huggins, but as members of the Valley delegation, I believe both of you represent me. I also trust you will value and respect my opinion on its own merit.

SB 1 is not a partisan issue. Second hand smoke and the carcinogens it carries, cannot tell the difference between Republicans and Democrats. Neither does SB 1 have anything to do with growing government. When we share common space, such as when we drive on highways, it is appropriate for government to impose speed limits. The government has a legitimate interest in regulating shared airspace so that it is safe for both passengers and innocent bystanders on the ground. We have noise abatement regulations to balance the interests of citizens who live in different homes but in common neighborhoods. We have regulation of the common space in airports to insure the safety of all citizens sharing that common space. As I state in my letter to the Frontiersman attached, I cannot get liver disease simply by standing next to someone who is drinking alcohol. I can, and my father did, get cancer simply by breathing air in a shared space that had been polluted by tobacco smoke.

When people with competing interests share common space, and where the exercise of the interests of one person can, without government regulation, subject innocent bystanders to a proven, unreasonable risk of disease or death, the competing interests must be reconciled in favor of the innocent bystander. It is for that reason that smokers must be asked by law, to refrain from polluting the air they share in common with nonsmokers. If for no other reason, your support of SB 1 is warranted as an appropriate response to the spiraling cost of health care, spiraling costs that can no longer bear further inaction on this subject.

I urge your support of SB 1.

Respectfully,

*~Helene*

*Helene M Antel*  
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## Smoke free workplaces protect working Alaskans

**Posted: Monday, March 16, 2015 7:06 pm**

To the editor:

If passed, SB 1, promoting smoke free workplaces, will protect working Alaskans and their families against the well established, well documented, costly and seriously adverse health effects of secondhand smoke. Close quarters tobacco smoke has a chokehold on a health care system that is already suffocating. Non-smokers are carrying a disproportionately large and unfair share of the health care burden created by smokers. The cost of protecting the unlimited right of smokers to expose themselves and unwilling others to the risk of disease and even death, has become too high.

There is of course, the legitimate question of smokers' rights. But the bill does not make smoking unlawful. Under SB 1, people will retain the right to smoke. However, they will not have the right to do so if, in exercising their rights, smokers expose others to an unreasonable risk of harm, or where the rights of a smoker, when exercised, eviscerate mine. The rights of smokers do not outweigh the rights of non-smokers to be protected against involuntary exposure to the health risks created by close quarters smoking.

Proponents of SB 1 already have made clear the enormous annual economic cost to Alaskans attributable to secondhand smoke. This should not be a partisan issue. Secondhand smoke kills adult non-smokers of all political persuasions. I do not want to be one of them. My sister was a lifelong chain smoker who lived with my parents for 25+ smoking years. My father, who never smoked a day in his life, died from esophageal cancer. We all grieved, my sister especially.

I support SB 1 not because I seek increased governmental regulation of private rights. To the contrary. But, I do expect my government to protect me against known, manageable risks to my health and safety. I empathize; I can see how smokers might feel stigmatized. I regret that. But, smoking in enclosed public places is not a private right that should be exempt from regulation. It does not only affect the individual exercising it. When I am in an enclosed space with someone who drinks alcohol, my chances of getting liver disease are not aggravated. There are personal choices people can make without exposing those merely in the same room with them to a potentially lethal disease. Smoking is not one. Choose, if you must, your own poison. But please, do not make it mine.

Helene M. Antel

Palmer

## Daniel George

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**From:** Patty Ginsburg <pattyginsburg@me.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2015 1:03 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Stoltze  
**Subject:** SB 1

Dear Sen. Stoltze – I'm a former smoker and a 10-year survivor of advanced lung cancer. I'm ashamed when I think back on all the air I polluted and the lungs I damaged (not just my own) through my smoking. Alaskans shouldn't have to choose between their health and their job. Individual rights don't trump other people's health. On the issue of e-cigs, those things are loaded with chemicals and carcinogens. The onus should be on the e-cig industry to prove their safety, not the other way around. I hope you will support SB 1.

Sincerely,

Patty Ginsburg  
2600 Redwood St.  
Anchorage, AK 99508



Enriching Our Native Way of Life

March 20, 2015

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

Dear Senator Micciche:

Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) supports SB 1 (currently in Committee as CS SSSB1), legislation that would limit the indoor, enclosed or public spaces where smokers could continue to smoke. BBNC currently restricts smoking inside its corporate offices and these rules serve our employees well – protecting non-smoking employees from having to endure second-hand smoke while still providing smoking employees with reasonable access to places they can use tobacco products. BBNC believes SB 1 is similarly in the best interests of all Alaskans.

BBNC appreciates your concerns about limiting state government's intrusions against individual personal liberties. We also agree with the assessment contained in your sponsor statement for SB 1, that this proposed legislation does not overstep that line. The legislation would only apply to indoor or enclosed areas of public buildings and to limited, specified types of private spaces or public outdoor spaces. It does not discriminate against smokers in hiring or employment decisions and allows local governments to adopt more restrictive ordinances should they so choose.

Most importantly, SB 1 is good legislation because it addresses a significant public health problem. According to information contained in "Alaska Tobacco Facts" (April 2012), a publication produced by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, exposure to second-hand smoke poses significant health concerns in that it can increase an individual's risk of developing heart disease by 25%-30% and lung cancer by 20%-30%. These are unacceptable health risks that also impose significant and avoidable economic burdens on Alaskans and Alaska businesses. By some estimates, exposure to second-hand smoke costs Alaskans millions of dollars in direct health care costs and lost income and costs Alaskan businesses significant amounts of lost employee time.

Now is the time for the Alaska state government to act on this issue because data contained in the same "Alaska Tobacco Facts" publication shows that Alaskans, smokers and non-smokers alike, overwhelmingly favor smoking bans in or at their workplaces, restaurants, and schools and school events (65%-90% favor).

Simply stated, second-hand smoke is a health and economic issue that Alaskans want addressed. BBNC supports SB1 because it addresses that need in a responsible manner.

Regards,

Jason Metrokin  
President & CEO

cc: Commissioner Valarie Davidson, HSS