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**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 3:11 PM

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**Subject:** SB63 Information

Hello Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Please take a look at these documents that relate to the inclusion of vapor products in SB63. Most of the reports have been released since the end of the last legislative session, many being published in recent months. They are from both the US and other countries and all come to the same conclusion, vapor is not smoke and should not be treated as such, doing so would undermine efforts to help people stop their tobacco use. They show that vapor products are not the same as combustible products and should not be lumped together in smoke free bills as they do not produce smoke and there is no concern for bystanders. They also show the potential these product have to reduce tobacco use rates, reduce the amount of second hand smoke and first hand smoke in Alaska, decrease smoking related deaths and disease, thus lowering health care cost to the state. If the goal of SB63 is to protect and improve public health these new findings must be considered when forming policies. We all want to work together to make Alaska a healthier place to live and work making SB63 the best bill possible is part of that solution.

This is a study performed by the famous Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. They researched the feasibility of using vapor products to reduce smoking rate pre and post operation to reduces smoking related complications in their patients. They found this did work and that cigarette consumption was cut in half and 17% reported complete abstinence from cigarettes during the trial period.

This next document is the report put out this spring by Public Health England and the results of their extensive research on Vapor products in the UK. The first point they make in the Key Messages section that they want people to take away from the report is that smokers that smokers who have failed attempt to quit in the past should try Electronic cigarettes to stop smoking and that cessations services should include their use in the peoples's efforts to quit smoking. The second point they want people to see is that encouraging people to switch could reduce smoking related disease and death. They also state that vapor products are 95% safer than smoking in the sixth key message. This is a great report with lots of great information.

This next document also put out by Public Health England offers advice on making policy for public use and work place use. They state that Electronic Cigarettes or EC as they call them do not burn tobacco or produce smoke. They also state that there is "no evidence of harm to bystanders from exposure to e-cigarette vapour". They also state that EC "have the potential to make a significant contribution to its achievement" referring to the goal of being tobacco free by 2025. They also state that "To support smokers to stop smoking and stay smokefree, a more enabling approach may be appropriate in relation to vaping to make it an easier choice than smoking. In particular vapers should not be required to use

the same space as smokers, as this could undermine their ability to quit smoking and stay smoke free, particularly among those most heavily addicted." They also state that "to maximize the number of smokers switching to e-cigarette, vaping should be made a more convenient, as well as safer, option."

This study from Drexel University Peering through the mist concludes "Current state of knowledge about chemistry of liquids and aerosols associated with electronic cigarettes indicates that there is no evidence that vaping produces inhalable exposures to contaminants of the aerosol that would warrant health concerns by the standards that are used to ensure safety of workplaces."

Here is the press release from the results of last months report of a long term study by organizations both here and in the UK finding that cancer markers in people that use e-cigarettes is comparable to non smokers and could help reduce cancer rates.

This document is a report from the State Budget Solutions reporting that vapor product have the potential to save billions in Medicaid costs by reducing the amount of smoking related illness across the country. I know health care cost is a major category of our state's budget, if we could reduce that cost we could help reduce the deficit.

In this report funded by the FDA and the National Institute on Drug Abuse the author concludes "The primary aim of tobacco control policy should therefore be to discourage cigarette use while providing the means for smokers to more easily quit smoking, even if that means switching for some time to VNPs rather than quitting all nicotine use. Countries whose policies discourage VNP use run the risk of neutralizing a potentially useful addition to methods of reducing tobacco use." It also has flow charts showing the different results from use of vapor products many ending with former smokers.

Thank you for taking the time to look at and consider these reports, research, and policy suggestions. We can work together to create a bill to help current smokers kick their tobacco habits, former smokers stay some free and out of smoking areas where they would be more likely to take the habit back up, all while protecting the health of Alaskans across the state. Please remove references to vapor products from this bill, they do not produce smoke and do not belong in a smoke free bill. This simple change will help gain support for the bill and help improve public health in more ways than one.

Thanks again,

Alex McDonald