

**CITY OF KODIAK**  
**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2017–15**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KODIAK SUPPORTING A LAW IN ALASKA TO MAKE ALL WORKPLACES 100% SMOKE FREE TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL WORKERS AND VISITORS FROM THE DANGERS OF SECONDHAND SMOKE**

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, including at least 69 of which are known to cause cancer, including formaldehyde, benzene, vinyl chloride, arsenic, ammonia and hydrogen cyanide, and people who are exposed to secondhand smoke are inhaling many of the same cancer-causing substances and poisons as smokers; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution and that breathing secondhand smoke is a cause of disease in healthy non-smokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease and lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, *"The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke,"* concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; ventilation and other air cleaning technologies cannot eliminate exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke; and smoke free workplace policies are the only effective way to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, *"How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease,"* determined that even occasional exposure to secondhand smoke is harmful; and

WHEREAS, there are serious questions about the safety of inhaling the substances in some e-cigarette aerosol, and e-cigarettes have not been subject to thorough, independent testing, making it difficult for users to be sure of what they are actually inhaling. Some studies have shown that some e-cigarettes can cause short-term lung changes and irritations and the long-term health effects, are unknown; and

WHEREAS, for every nine smokers who die, one nonsmoker dies from exposure to secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, approximately half of Alaska's population is not protected by a smoke free workplace law; and

WHEREAS, among those who work primarily indoors, young adults aged 18 to 29 are significantly less likely to be protected by a smoke free indoor workplace policy than other Alaska adults; and

WHEREAS, research in communities where smoke free laws have been adopted has consistently shown neutral or positive economic effects to the hospitality industry following a smoke free workplace requirement; and

WHEREAS, smoke free workplace laws protect people from secondhand smoke, reduce tobacco use overall and reduce health care costs; and

WHEREAS, all Alaskans have the right to breathe smoke free air; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Kodiak, Alaska, supports a law in Alaska to make all workplaces 100% smoke free to protect the health and safety of all workers and visitors from the dangers of secondhand smoke.



CITY OF KODIAK

  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
DEPUTY CLERK

Adopted: May 25, 2017

Sponsored by: Assemblymember Doty  
Adopted: 04/04/17

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 17-028**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING  
SMOKEFREE ALASKA (SENATE BILL 63).

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WHEREAS, secondhand smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, including at least 69 of which are known to cause cancer, including formaldehyde, benzene, vinyl chloride, arsenic, ammonia, and hydrogen cyanide; and

WHEREAS, people who are exposed to secondhand smoke are inhaling many of the same cancer-causing substances and poisons as smokers; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution and that breathing secondhand smoke is a cause of disease in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 United States Surgeon General's Report, "*The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*," concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; ventilation and other air cleaning technologies cannot eliminate exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, smoke free workplace policies are the only effective way to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 United States Surgeon General's Report, "*How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease*," determined that even occasional exposure to secondhand smoke is harmful; and

WHEREAS, there are serious questions about the safety of inhaling the substances in some e-cigarette aerosol; e-cigarettes have not been subject to thorough, independent testing, making it difficult for users to be sure of what they are actually inhaling; and

WHEREAS, some studies have shown that some e-cigarettes can cause short-term lung changes and irritations and the long-term health effects are unknown; and

WHEREAS, for every nine smokers who die, one nonsmoker dies from exposure to secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, approximately half of Alaska's population is not protected by a smoke free workplace law; and

WHEREAS, among those who work primarily indoors, young adults aged 18 to 29, are significantly less likely to be protected by a smoke free indoor workplace policy than other Alaskan adults; and

WHEREAS, research in communities where smoke free laws have been adopted has consistently shown neutral or positive economic effects to the hospitality industry following a smoke free workplace requirement; and

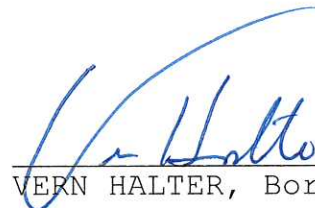
WHEREAS, smoke free workplace laws protect people from secondhand smoke, reduce tobacco use overall, and reduce health care costs; and

WHEREAS, all Alaskans have the right to breathe smoke free air; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is a second class borough without health powers and therefore depends upon State legislation for issues of health and safety that impact Borough citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Assembly supports House Bill 63 that would prohibit smoking in enclosed areas in places of employment to protect the health and safety of all workers and visitors from the dangers of secondhand smoke.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 4 day of April, 2017.

  
VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk  
(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Sykes, Beck, McKee, Colligan, Mayfield, Doty,  
and Kowalke

1 By: Matt Cooper  
2 John Davies  
3 Introduced: 04/27/2017  
4 Adopted: 04/28/2017  
5  
6

7 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

8  
9 RESOLUTION NO. 2017 – 18

10  
11 A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SMOKE-FREE WORKPLACES IN ALASKA  
12

13 WHEREAS, tobacco smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals,  
14 including at least 69 of which are known to cause cancer<sup>1</sup>, including formaldehyde,  
15 benzene, vinyl chloride, arsenic, ammonia and hydrogen cyanide<sup>2</sup>, and people who are  
16 exposed to secondhand smoke are inhaling many of the same cancer-causing  
17 substances and poisons as smokers<sup>3</sup>; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major  
20 contributor to indoor air pollution and that breathing secondhand smoke is a cause of  
21 disease in healthy nonsmokers<sup>4</sup>, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease  
22 and lung cancer<sup>2</sup>; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, the 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, *"The Health*  
25 *Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke,"* concluded that there is no  
26 risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; ventilation and other air cleaning  
27 technologies cannot eliminate exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke; and  
28 smokefree workplace policies are the only effective way to eliminate secondhand smoke  
29 exposure in the workplace<sup>4</sup>; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, the 2010 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, *"How Tobacco*  
32 *Smoke Causes Disease,"* determined that even occasional exposure to secondhand  
33 smoke is harmful<sup>5</sup>; and  
34

35 WHEREAS, there are serious questions about the safety of inhaling the  
36 substances in some e-cigarette aerosol, and e-cigarettes have not been subject to  
37 thorough, independent testing, making it difficult for users to be sure of what they are  
38 actually inhaling; and  
39

40 WHEREAS, some studies have shown that some e-cigarettes can cause  
41 short-term lung changes and irritations and the long-term health effects, are unknown<sup>10</sup>;  
42 and  
43

44 WHEREAS, for every nine smokers who die, one nonsmoker dies from  
45 exposure to secondhand smoke<sup>6</sup>; and  
46

WHEREAS, approximately half of Alaska's population is not protected by a smokefree workplace law<sup>7</sup>; and

WHEREAS, among those who work primarily indoors, young adults aged 18 to 29 are significantly less likely to be protected by a smokefree indoor workplace policy than other Alaskan adults<sup>8</sup>; and

WHEREAS, research in communities where smokefree laws have been adopted has consistently shown neutral or positive economic effects to the hospitality industry following a smokefree workplace requirement<sup>9</sup>; and

WHEREAS, smokefree workplace laws protect people from secondhand smoke<sup>4</sup>, reduce tobacco use overall and reduce health care costs<sup>6</sup>; and

WHEREAS, all Alaskans have the right to breathe smokefree air; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Senate is considering Senate Bill 63, Regulation of Smoking, that prohibits smoking in certain places, including certain workplaces;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Fairbanks North Star Borough supports a law in Alaska to make all workplaces 100% smokefree to protect the health and safety of all workers and visitors from the dangers of secondhand smoke and to enhance economic development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Governor Walker, Senator Micciche, and the Interior Delegation.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2017.

  
Kathryn Dodge  
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

  
Nanci Ashford-Bingham, MMC  
Borough Clerk

Yeses: Tacke, Cooper, Quist, Roberts, Gray, Davies, Sattley, Lawrence, Dodge  
Noes: None

## SOURCES

1. U.S. Surgeon General, *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease*, 2010.
2. American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, *The Facts About Secondhand Smoke*, 2012.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Health Effects of Secondhand Smoke*, [www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/fact\\_sheets/secondhand\\_smoke/health\\_effects/#lung](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/secondhand_smoke/health_effects/#lung).
4. U.S. Surgeon General, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Secondhand Smoke*, 2006.
5. U.S. Surgeon General, *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease Fact Sheet*, 2010, [www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/tobaccosmoke/factsheet.html](http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/tobaccosmoke/factsheet.html).
6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Years of Potential Life Lost, and Productivity Losses—United States, 2000–2004*. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 2008; 57(45):1226–8.
7. Tobacco Program Records, 2012 and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development 2011 Population estimates. [www.almis.labor.state.ak.us/pop/popest.htm](http://www.almis.labor.state.ak.us/pop/popest.htm).
8. Alaska Department of Health and Human Services, 2012 Alaska Tobacco Facts, 2012.
9. Eriksen, Michael & Frank Chaloupka. *The Economic Impact of Clean Indoor Air Laws*. CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians. 2007. <http://caonline.amcancersoc.org/cgi/content/full/57/6/367>.
10. American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, *Commonly Asked Questions about Electronic Cigarettes*, 2014.





# YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION

*"Working Together to Achieve Excellent Health"*

Representative Zach Fansler  
House Committee on Community & Regional Affairs, Co-Chair  
State Capitol  
Room 416  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB 63, Smoke-Free Workplace

April 12, 2017

Dear Co-Chair Fansler,

On February 3, 2017, in honor of World Cancer Day, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) announced the adoption of a tobacco-free campus policy that will go into effect in February 2018. This policy, which is in alignment with our mission and vision, was adopted by our Board of Directors because we are committed not only to healing illness, but to promoting wellness. This policy does not require individuals to quit using tobacco products; rather use of any kind will need to be off YKHC property.

The U.S. Surgeon General's 2006 report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and such exposure increases a non-smoker's risk of heart disease by 25-30 percent and lung cancer by 20-30 percent. It was further concluded, in the same report, that smoke-free workplace policies are the only "effective way to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure in the workplace." YKHC has made the decision to become a tobacco-free campus because, as a healthcare organization, we are committed to the health and safety of our employees, patients, and visitors.

According to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, in Southwest Alaska, 31 percent of adults smoke and 22 percent of adults use smokeless tobacco. YKHC clinical data and the Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics report that cancer is the leading cause of death among residents in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

As YKHC spends the next several months preparing our customers and employees for our transition to a tobacco-free campus, we also continue to educate our region to the harmful effects of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes). E-cigarettes are not a proven cessation method. In fact, a majority of e-cigarette users continue to smoke conventional cigarettes. And though e-cigarettes do not contain smoke, they do expose non-smokers to secondhand emissions. Two studies have found formaldehyde, benzene, and tobacco-specific nitrosamines, all carcinogens, coming from secondhand emissions. The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that e-cigarette aerosol is not harmless, but can contain harmful and potentially harmful chemicals.



# YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION

*"Working Together to Achieve Excellent Health"*

We understand the Alaska Legislature is considering Senate Bill 63, "An Act prohibiting smoking in certain places; relating to education on the smoking prohibition; and providing for an effective date." As you may know, current smoke-free workplace laws only protect half of the state's population. Many boroughs lack the authority necessary to pass a local law. The only way to ensure all Alaskans are protected from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke is through passage of a statewide smoke-free workplace law.

Should you, or your committee, have any questions regarding the information we have provided here, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dan Winkelman  
President & CEO

CC:

Senator Lyman Hoffman

Representative Justin Parish, House Committee on Community & Regional Affairs, Co-Chair