



# Alaska Tobacco Control Alliance

**Our Vision: A Tobacco-Free Alaska**

## Elected Members

**Jennifer Adzima**  
Anchorage Region

**Henry George**  
Western Region, Bethel

**Mele Havea**  
Northern Region, Barrow

**Betty MacTavish** *co-chair*  
Southwest Region, Kodiak

**Jenny Olendorff** *co-chair*  
Southcentral Region, Soldotna

**Andrea Thomas**  
Southeast Region, Sitka

**Jeffrey Beck**  
At Large

**Becky Stoppa**  
At Large

## Native Appointees

**Gary Ferguson**  
Anchorage

**Brian James**  
Nome

**Caroline Nevak**  
Anchorage

**Tiffany Tutiakoff**  
Anchorage

## Core Agencies

**Lincoln Bean Sr.**  
Alaska Native Health Board

**Ken Helander**  
AARP

**Jamie Morgan**  
American Heart Association

**Emily Nemon**  
American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network

**Marge Stoneking**  
American Lung Association

March 24, 2014

Members of the House Health and Social Services Committee  
Attn: Rep. Higgins, Chair  
Alaska State Legislature

Dear Rep. Higgins and members of the committee:

Since 1991, the Alaska Tobacco Control Alliance (ATCA) has advocated for policies protecting people from the harmful effects of tobacco use and secondhand smoke. As such, we are excited to see that our legislators recognize that **all workers deserve the right to breathe smokefree air.**

We are relieved that e-cigarettes are included in this discussion, as research shows that e-cigarettes do not just emit “harmless water vapor”. Specifically, we know that exhaled secondhand aerosol is made up of ultrafine particles with levels higher than in conventional tobacco cigarette smoke and that exposure to these particles are risk factors for asthma and artery constriction leading to heart attacks. For these reasons, national health advocates including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention consider it a best practice to include e-cigarettes in all comprehensive smokefree workplace policies.

For these reasons, across the country, municipalities and states are including e-cigarettes in policies that prohibit their use in smokefree environments. In addition, one cannot tell by looking at an e-cigarette what the e-cartridge contains. There are known instances where e-cigarettes are used as illegal drug delivery devices containing liquid marijuana and heroin.

Thank you for your commitment to the health of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Betty MacTavish, co-chair  
Southwest Region

Jenny Olendorff, co-chair  
Southcentral Region

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