

Resolution of Support for Smokefree Alaska

Whereas, Secondhand smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals, 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 nonsmokers, 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 smokefree 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, For every eight smokers who die, one nonsmoker dies from exposure to secondhand smoke; and

Whereas, Nine out of ten Alaskans, including seven out of ten smokers, believe that smoking should be prohibited in Alaska workplaces; 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, and

Whereas, Smokefree 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 smokefree air;

THEREFORE, we, the undersigned support 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.

Organization: Mat-Su Health Foundation
Signature: Elizabeth Ripley
Name: Elizabeth Ripley
Title: Executive Director