# Chair Senator Wilson and members of the Senate Health & Social Services,

# I am offering my testimony against Senate bill 63. As this bill is written it would make it extremely difficult if not impossible for the lifesaving industry of vaping to exist much less to grow in Alaska. The opportunity and choice to vape instead of smoke should not be made more difficult or taken away from those Alaskans that wish to take a healthier path.

# Years of research has been done, and millions of dollars have been spent investigating whether vaping is a safe substitute for smoking. The verdict is in. (Aug. 9, 2015) Public Health England.

# Key findings of the review include:

# the current best estimate is that e-cigarettes are around 95% less harmful than smoking

# nearly half the population (44.8%) don’t realize e-cigarettes are much less harmful than smoking

# there is no evidence so far that e-cigarettes are acting as a route into smoking for children or non-smokers

# https://www.gov.uk/government/news/e-cigarettes-around-95-less-harmful-than-tobacco-estimates-landmark-review

# This misguided bill lumps vaping together with smoking which it is not.

# I am not a advocate for tobacco use as both my parents died from lung cancer. I smoked from age 12 till age 53, 41 years, then I found vaping and was able to quit killing myself.

# Now I help other folks get off tobacco, 293 so far and they all tell me they feel better,

# An air scrubber for my small store would cost the store between 30 and 50 thousand dollars. The cost of this would be prohibitive for new stores to say the least. Most vape shops in Alaska are small owner operated stores that operate on small margins to keep costs down for folks getting off tobacco.

# Please remove all references to vaping from this bill, SB63, as it does nothing to help educate smokers to the benefits of vaping and inhibits the growth of an industry that would help Alaskan smokers have healthier choices than tobacco use.

# Thank you for your time,

# Steven Mapes