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To: Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson <Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Roger Holland <Senator.Roger.Holland@akleg.gov>; Sen. Joshua Revak <Sen.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>

Subject: SB45 Testimony

Hello Senate Labor & Commerce Committee members,

My name is Johna Beech and I am a resident in Kenai.

First off, thank you for scheduling another hearing on SB45. I am in full support of SB45.

The FDA acknowledges e-cigarettes as tobacco products. They should be taxed at the same rate as traditional tobacco products. At this time, in the state of Alaska, E-cigarettes are not taxed at all. Also, the entire product should be taxed, not just a portion of it.

We have done so well in our advancement in our fight against cancer; with early detection and prevention being two major players in reducing death rates. Our youth know that traditional tobacco is a bad deal. Yet we see an increase in youth use of e-cigarettes. If we can prevent our youth from using e-cigarettes by taxing the tobacco product, why wouldn't we do so?

Please support a strong e-cigarette tax to keep our young people safe and healthy..

Thank you,
Johna Beech