

Abel, Pamela

From: Andrea Johnson [drejay@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2014 11:51 AM
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Subject: Board of health meeting- Agenda item #9

To whom it may concern,

I'm a Wisconsin resident who frequently travels to the Madison area for vacations, shopping and to visit family and friends. I'm writing to express my concern for the proposed public ban of E-cigarette use.

Why does this subject hit so close to home for me as a non-smoker and non-e-cigarette user? I grew up taking care of my grandmother who was dying of illness related to years of smoking tobacco cigarettes. My husband was also a smoker until recently when he was persuaded to try e-cigs as a means to quit tobacco. This came after many failed attempts to quit on his own, nicotine gum, patches, a prescription drug etc. My husband is well on his way to becoming nicotine free with the help of e-cigs. Smoking bans are enacted to protect people from the harm of secondhand smoke. Water vapor emitted from e-cigs is not smoke and should not be classified as such. Vapor has not been found to pose a risk to bystanders. This is supported by research done by Dr. Siegel of Boston University, Dr. Eisenberg of Virginia Commonwealth, Dr. Maciej L Gonwicz of Roswell Park Cancer Institute and many others. The FHA also failed to find harmful levels of carcinogens or toxic levels of any chemical in vapor.

Electronic cigarette use is easy to distinguish from actual smoking. E-cigarette vapor is virtually odorless. As someone who is not a smoker and can not stand the smell of tobacco smoke, I find that I am not bothered by vapor. For the record, I am not an e-cig user either. I see e-cigarette use as a positive step people are taking to better their health and to quit smoking. Isn't that a goal of all communities? I do understand that the use of these devices may not be appropriate in all setting and would urge you to leave this decision up to individual businesses to decide for themselves.