

Abel, Pamela

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Sent: Monday, November 24, 2014 3:03 PM
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Subject: Legislation regarding the use of electronic cigarettes.

OHello everyone,

I am a Madison resident and Middleton business owner, since December of 2000 and I oppose banning e-cigarette use where smoking is prohibited.

I was a cigarette smoker for 20 yrs. I smoked anywhere from 1/2 to 1.5 packs per day. In 2008 I found electronic cigarettes once the local price of 1 pack had reached the \$7/pack mark. I was beginning to have breathing issues when active, and was months away from being put on high blood pressure medications. Not good for someone at 39 yrs old. I started using electronic cigarettes and was able to quit within 3 weeks when everything other attempts had failed (gum, patches, chantix, and cold turkey). A year later I was asked by my doctor if I had changed jobs or something, as my blood pressure was dead normal, and no need for any regulating medication. I simply told him the one change that I made and he told me to keep doing that versus smoking regular cigarettes, which I have done for 6 years. I believe that had I not stopped smoking it would have killed me before my 50th birthday.

To clarify some things:

- a. Smoking bans are ostensibly enacted to protect the public from the harm of secondhand smoke, but e-cigarettes have not been found to pose a risk to bystanders. In fact, all evidence to date shows that the low health risks associated with e-cigarettes are comparable to other smokeless nicotine products.
- b. The low risks of e-cigarettes is supported by research done by Dr. Siegel of Boston University, Dr. Eissenberg of Virginia Commonwealth, Dr Maciej L Goniewicz of the Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Dr. Laugesen of Health New Zealand, Dr. Igor Burstyn of Drexel University, and by the fact that the FDA testing, in spite of its press statement, failed to find harmful levels of carcinogens or toxic levels of any chemical in the vapor.
- c. A comprehensive review conducted by Dr. Igor Burstyn of Drexel University School of Public Health based on over 9,000 observations of e-cigarette liquid and vapor found "no apparent concern" for bystanders exposed to e-cigarette vapor, even under "worst case" assumptions about exposure.
- d. Electronic cigarette use is easy to distinguish from actual smoking. Although some e-cigarettes resemble real cigarettes, many do not. It is easy to tell when someone lights a cigarette from the smell of smoke. E-cigarette vapor is practically odorless, and generally any detectable odor is not unpleasant and smells nothing like smoke. Additionally, e-cigarette users can decide whether to release any vapor ("discreet vaping"). With so little evidence of use, enforcing use bans on electronic cigarettes would be nearly impossible.

e. The ability to use electronic cigarettes in public spaces will actually improve public health by inspiring other smokers to switch and reduce their health risks by an estimated 99%.

f. Losing the ability to test e-liquids before purchasing will have a significant and negative impact on your ability to purchase/sell e-liquids.

g. By making e-cigarette users go outdoors, the City will be sending a strong message to traditional smokers that e-cigarettes are no safer than smoking. This will actually maintain the number of smokers in Madison, rather than help reduce smoking. This is a far more realistic risk to public health than any unfounded concerns about possible youth or non-smoker use uptake.

In fact, the most recent report by the CDC showed that the dramatic increase in e-cigarette use over that past 3 years has not led to an increase in youth smoking. Youth smoking of traditional cigarttes continues to decline to record low levels.

h. E-cigarette use does not promote the smoking of traditional cigarettes, nor does it threaten the gains of tobacco control over the past few decades. In fact, by normalizing e-cigarette use over traditional smoking, the efforts of tobacco control are being supported. If anything, e-cigarette use denormalizes conventional smoking by setting the example of smokers choosing a far less harmful alternative to traditional smoking. The CDC surveys clearly show that there has been no "gateway effect" causing non-smokers to start smoking. As e-cigarettes have become more popular, all available evidence is showing that more and more smokers are quitting traditional cigarettes, including youth smokers.

i. "We aren't banning all use or sales, just use where smoking is also prohibited." This is just an incorrect statement in many ways. "Vaping" or the use of an electronic cigarette (we prefer the term PV or personal vaporizer), is not smoking. There is no combustion, no tobacco, none of the hundreds of chemicals that are put into regular cigarettes, no tar, etc., etc. The two could not be more different.

Please direct your attention to the Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives (CASAA.org) website, as well as the [CASAA Research Library](#), for more information

Please do not make rash or quick judgement on those of us who have made the choice to not use regular cigarettes. You have at least 7 (as of this writing) local business owners operating Vape shops, and getting Madison residents to quit smoking. This legislation would have detrimental effects on their ability to operate and remain viable. This alone would push some people back to regular cigarettes. Considering the escalation of health care costs, I would want more people using these devices over cigarettes anytime.

Thank you for your time in reading this. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions.

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