



Resolution of Support for the North Dakota Smoke-Free Law

Adopted by the Tobacco Free North Dakota Board of Directors August 26, 2024

WHEREAS, tobacco use is the foremost preventable cause of premature death in the United States.ⁱ Tobacco is responsible for approximately 480,000 deaths a year and more than 21 million premature deaths in the United States over the past 50 years since the first Surgeon General's report on smoking in 1964ⁱⁱ;

WHEREAS, tobacco smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, including hundreds that are toxic and approximately 70 that can cause cancerⁱⁱⁱ. Both the Public Health Service's National Toxicology Program and Environmental Protection Agency have classified secondhand smoke (SHS) as a known carcinogen, concluding that SHS is a health risk to nonsmokers^{iv};

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General concludes there is no risk-free level of exposure to SHS and SHS exposure causes the following health effects: lung cancer, heart disease, as well as stroke in adults, sudden infant death syndrome, low birth weight; middle ear problems, respiratory symptoms, and asthma in children among other medical conditions^v;

WHEREAS, studies have shown that second hand aerosol from electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) contain harmful chemicals, including nicotine; ultrafine particles that can be inhaled deep into the lungs; flavoring such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to a serious lung disease; volatile organic compounds such as benzene, which is found in car exhaust; and heavy metals, such as nickel, tin, and lead^{vi};

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke from marijuana has many of the same chemicals as smoke from tobacco, including those linked to lung cancer^{vii}. Exposure to fine particulate matter can exacerbate health problems, especially for people with respiratory conditions like asthma, bronchitis, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)^{viii};

WHEREAS, cigar smoke, like cigarette smoke, contains toxic and cancer-causing chemicals that are harmful to both smokers and nonsmokers. Cigar smoke is possibly more toxic than cigarette smoke as cigars have a higher level of cancer-causing substances, more tar, and a higher level of toxins^{ix}. The larger size of most cigars and longer smoking time result in higher exposure to many toxic substances including carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, ammonia, cadmium, and other substances;

WHEREAS, the American Society for Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), affirms that mechanical solutions like ventilation cannot control for the health hazards of SHS, and the best solution is that all smoking activity inside and near buildings should be eliminated^x;

WHEREAS, ventilation and other air cleaning technologies cannot completely control for exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke; smoke-free workplace policies are the only effective way to eliminate SHS exposure in the workplace,

WHEREAS, evidence from peer-reviewed studies shows that smoke-free policies and laws do not have an adverse economic impact on businesses^{xi};

WHEREAS, multiple studies have linked comprehensive smoke-free workplace and public places legislation to significant declines in hospital admissions for heart attacks in the general population, including North Dakota;

WHEREAS, studies indicate that individuals living in communities with comprehensive smoke-free policies are 22% less likely to be hospitalized for COPD compared to their peers in communities with moderate-weak smoke-free laws or no law^{xii};

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that ENDS not be used indoors, especially in smoke-free environments, in order to minimize the risk to bystanders of breathing in the aerosol emitted by the devices and to avoid undermining the enforcement of smoke-free laws^{xiii};

WHEREAS, the annual economic impact of secondhand smoke alone in the United States is approximately \$6.5 billion;

WHEREAS, in 2012 North Dakota voters enacted a comprehensive statewide law prohibiting smoking in enclosed public places, with every county voting in favor of the law, passing by a two to one margin;

WHEREAS, this law is supported by over 80% of North Dakotans^{xiv};

THEREFORE, be it resolved, Western Plains Public Health Board of Health Supports policies that create smoke-free spaces, so that the citizens of North Dakota may continue to enjoy their economic and health-related benefits.

John Cranshaw

Name of Organization Representative

John McArthur

Signature of Organization Representative

11-14-24

Date

Sources:

ⁱ Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Current Cigarette Smoking Among Adults, United States, 2011, 61(44) Morbidity and Mortality Wkly. Rep. 889, 891 (2012), <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6144.pdf>

ⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). The Health Consequences of Smoking-50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General, Retrieved from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK179276/>

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of](#)

[the Surgeon General.](#)

^{iv} U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Respiratory Health Effects of Passive Smoking: Lung Cancer and Other Disorders." Washington, DC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;1992. Pub. No. EPA/600/6-90/006F

^v U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2006) The health consequences of involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke: A report of the Surgeon General, Retrieved from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK44324/>

^{vi} <https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/knowtherisks.html>

^{vii} "Evidence on the Carcinogenicity of Marijuana Smoke." Reproductive and Cancer Hazard Assessment Branch, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, California Environmental Protection Agency. August 2009
http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/hazard_ident/pdf_zip/FinalMJsmokeHID.pdf

^{viii} "Air and Health: Particulate Matter." National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. <http://ephtracking.cdc.gov/showAirHealth.action#ParticulateMatter>

^{ix} National Cancer Institute (1998). *Smoking and Tobacco Control Monograph 9: Cigars: Health Effects and Trends*. Bethesda, MD. <http://www.cancercontrol.cancer.gov/tcrb/monographs/9/index.html>.

^x https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/about/position%20documents/pd_environmental-tobacco-smoke-2023-06-28.pdf

^{xi}

<https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/secondhandsmoke/policy.html#:~:text=Smokefree%20policies%20do%20not%20negatively%20impact%20businesses&text=Few%20studies%20have%20examined%20the%20economic%20impact%20of%20smokefree%20policies%20on%20casinos.&text=Some%20studies%20suggest%20a%20smokefree%20policy%20produces%20positive%20effects%20for%20local%20businesses>.

^{xii} Hahn EJ, Rayens MK, Adkins S, Simpson N, Frazier S, Mannino DM. Fewer hospitalizations for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in communities with smoke-free public policies. *Am J Public Health*. Jun 2014;104(6):1059-1065

^{xiii} Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; Sixth session Moscow, Russian Federation, 13–18 October 2014 http://apps.who.int/gb/fctc/PDF/cop6/FCTC_COP6_10Rev1-en.pdf?ua=1

^{xiv} North Dakota Public Opinion Survey: Priority Analyses Summary (October 2016) **Center for Public Health Systems Science & Brown School Evaluation Center**; George Warren Brown School of Social Work