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Chairwoman Laurie Monnes Anderson and members of the committee,

I am writing in extreme opposition to two bills: SB 415, which would ban the sale of e-cigarette flavors other than tobacco and menthol, and HB 2546, which would prohibit the use of smoke-free vapor products in all places where smoking is not permitted. Neither of these bills will contribute to the improvement of public health in Oregon, and, in fact, they could work against the interests of public health by discouraging Oregon's 680,000-plus adult smokers from quitting smoking by switching to vaping. If HB 2546 is passed, I am writing to express my support of Amendment A24. I also support the provisions of the bill banning the sale of vaping products to minors.

I smoked about a pack and a quarter per day for 20 years. In 2009, hearing about e-cigarettes intrigued me. I began looking into them. For about 9 months, I considered switching, but I wondered how harmful they might be. Ironically, I pulled a cigarette out of the pack in front of my computer, ready to light it, as I wondered if they were more dangerous than cigarettes. When I realized the absurdity of the thought, I ordered my first e-cigarettes. I started using them in the beginning of 2010.

I started smoking again for two brief periods during the next couple of years. In both cases, I smoked far less than I used to; and as technology improved, vaping drew me back. I bought my last pack of cigarettes in June 2012. My wife, Tiffany Morgan, bought her last pack in January 2012 after I introduced her to e-cigarettes. She never looked back.

I never intended to quit smoking. I have always enjoyed it. Intellectually, I knew I needed to quit, but my heart was never in it. It wasn't on my agenda until I discovered a smokeless cigarette that tasted good. Today, the flavor of a cigarette is revolting. I have zero interest in smoking. I have drastically cut my nicotine content, from 2.4 percent initially to 0 and .6 percent today. I am enjoying all of the benefits of not smoking that we smokers always heard our nonsmoker friends mention. I was surprised and happy to discover an increase in personal energy levels.

Although wild speculation by anti-smoking activists would have you believe that the range of flavors, including fruit, beverage, and desserts, serves the sole purpose of enticing children, in reality, the variety of flavors plays a crucial role in helping adults transition away from smoking.

We know from two recent surveys that adults prefer flavors other than traditional tobacco and menthol (<http://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/10/12/7272> and <http://vaping.com/data/big-survey-2014-initial-findings-eliquld>). Flavors are an important aspect of vapor products as they help former smokers disassociate nicotine consumption from inhaling tobacco smoke. Prohibiting flavor options creates a barrier to becoming smoke free and as a result hundreds of thousands of Oregon residents will actually be encouraged to continue smoking instead of making the switch to a product that is estimated to be 99 percent less hazardous than smoking.

Flavors have been key for me and my wife in quitting smoking. As we can see in that other vice, alcohol, adults enjoy the same flavors as children. Humans enjoy good flavors, period. It is not some

marketing technique targeting children. And flavoring presents no more danger to children than alcoholic drinks like Mike's Hard Black Cherry or a peach wine cooler. Banning the sale of e-liquid to children is as sufficient as banning the sale of alcohol to the same children.

Smoking laws are ostensibly enacted to protect the public from the harm of secondhand smoke, but smoke-free e-cigarettes have not been shown to cause harm 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. A comprehensive review conducted by Dr. Igor Burstyn of Drexel University School of Public Health (and published in a peer-reviewed journal earlier this year - <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/14/18/abstract>) examined more than 9,000 observations of e-cigarette liquid and vapor and found "no apparent concern" for bystanders exposed to e-cigarette vapor, even under "worst case" assumptions about exposure.

A new study of leading American and British brands, reported in "Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology" in December 2014 (<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0273230014002505>), confirms this point, finding that the levels of potentially problematic substances in e-cigarette aerosol are about the same as those detected in ambient air.

Treating vapor products identically to traditional combustible cigarettes simply does not make sense. I understand the fear associated with vaping. I shared that fear early on, while still a smoker, and have been delighted to learn that vaping is so much less harmful than smoking. At the very least, vapor product usage should be permitted in adult-only facilities, such as vapor retail stores and vaping-related events like conventions. As Rep. Sherrie Sprenger asked before the House vote on HB 2546, why not let vapors vape in vape shops. She suggested that the Senate add an amendment.

Rep. Taylor likened the ban in a vape shop to the ban on the use of liquor in a liquor store prior to the House vote. Vaping is radically different from liquor though. It does not impair the ability of its users to drive away from the shop. She was concerned about difficulty with enforcement, but allowing sampling in vape shop is no more difficult to enforce than the ban on children buying vaping products. No good reason exists to ban the use of vaping products in vape shops.

I urge you to amend the bill to allow private property owners, which includes privately owned businesses, to determine whether vaping is allowed on their property. Barring this, please include Amendment A24, an exception for vape shops, in HB 2456.

It is important that smokers interested in switching to vaping be able to try these products and determine what flavor will best help them transition from smoking. It allows vapor retail employees to demonstrate and troubleshoot devices, which is vital to consumer safety and understanding of these products.

While I understand some have expressed a fear about these products acting as a "gateway" to traditional cigarettes for youth, there is no evidence to suggest this is really happening, and research actually shows it is unlikely to happen to any substantial extent. Teen smoking rates are at their lowest point since smoking became popular and continue to drop, but there are adults who will continue to smoke until they die unless we provide effective alternatives that they can enjoy.

I along with my fellow members of the Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives Association (CASAA) thank you for considering my comments on this issue and implore you to reject SB 415 and

reject or at least amend HB 2546 to remove the unjustified restrictions on vapor product usage. I look forward to your response on this issue and I am available for any questions you might have.

Sincerely,
Sean C. Morgan