



February 19, 2014

3325 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 900
Los Angeles, CA 90010
213-384-5864 phone
866-881-7865 fax

lung.org/california

The Honorable Mitch O'Farrell, Chair
Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street #450
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chairman O'Farrell:

The American Lung Association in California supports the Los Angeles City Council's action to protect the public health of Los Angeles residents by including electronic cigarettes in its smokefree air laws.

The American Lung Association is concerned that very little is known about the health effects of electronic cigarettes and of the vapors that they release, or what the health consequences of them might be. Two initial studies have found formaldehyde, benzene and tobacco-specific nitrosamines (a cancer-causing chemical) coming from the secondhand emissions from e-cigarettes. While we have a lot more to learn about these products, it's clear that there is much to be concerned about and there's a lot more than just "water vapor" in these products. In addition, it is important to note that e-cigarettes have not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to be safe and effective in helping smokers quit cigarettes.

And finally, it's worth highlighting that the e-cigarette industry appears to be using the same playbook as the cigarette companies did a generation ago. We are deeply concerned that these products are starting kids on a lifetime addiction to nicotine. According to one researcher, there are more than 250 e-cigarette brands for sale today, over half of which offered fruit or candy-flavors. We've seen candy-flavors including Captain Crunch, gummy bear, cotton candy, Atomic Fireball and fruit loops.

It is critical for communities to remain on the cutting edge in protecting their residents from new and emerging tobacco products, and this law does just that. We applaud Los Angeles for taking this important action to protect public health.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Amazeen
Vice President, Programs & Advocacy

Cc: Members of the Los Angeles City Council