

Sample Resolution for Municipalities to Protect Local Control

Whereas numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution, and that breathing secondhand smoke (also known as environmental tobacco smoke) is a cause of disease in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and lung cancer; and

Whereas the National Cancer Institute determined in 1999 (Monograph #10) that secondhand smoke is responsible for the early deaths of 53,000 Americans annually; and

Whereas the 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's report, *"The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke,"* concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; ventilation and other air cleaning technologies cannot completely control for exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke; smokefree workplace policies are the only effective way to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure in the workplace, and evidence from peer-reviewed studies shows that smokefree policies and laws do not have an adverse economic impact on the hospitality industry; and

Whereas the 2010 U.S. Surgeon General's report, *"How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease,"* concluded that even occasional exposure to secondhand smoke is harmful and low levels of exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke lead to a rapid and sharp increase in dysfunction and inflammation of the lining of the blood vessels, which are implicated in heart attacks and stroke; and

Whereas the Public Health Service's National Toxicology Program has listed secondhand smoke as a known carcinogen (U.S. DHHS, 2000, citing Cal. EPA, 1997); and

Whereas secondhand smoke is particularly hazardous to elderly people, individuals with cardiovascular disease, and individuals with impaired respiratory function, including asthmatics and those with obstructive airway disease; and

Whereas children exposed to secondhand smoke have an increased risk of asthma, respiratory infections, sudden infant death syndrome, developmental abnormalities, and cancer; and

Whereas the people in local communities believe they have the right to protect themselves against the harmful effects of secondhand smoke; and

Whereas more than 4,900 local governments throughout the country have successfully passed smokefree air laws to protect people against the harmful effects of secondhand smoke; and

Whereas the tobacco industry, in an effort to negate such local legislation, has developed as its chief legislative strategy the removal of local authority to regulate tobacco; and

Whereas protecting people from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke is best accomplished by local communities working directly with the people most affected by smokefree air laws; and

Whereas the State Legislature should not act to deprive local governments of the authority to protect people from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the _____ [*Municipal Officials*] urge the State Legislature to preserve the rights of local governments to enact and enforce tobacco-related laws.

Be it further resolved that the _____ [*Municipal Officials*] urge the State Legislature not to pass _____ [Bill Name] as long as it preempts local governments from enacting and enforcing laws to protect people from the harmful effects of tobacco.

And be it further resolved that the _____ [*Municipal Officials*] strongly encourage other local governmental entities in _____ [State Name] to adopt similar resolutions.

Name Title

Signature Date