

May 24, 2017 House Committee on Economic Development and Trade Opposition to -11 in SB 1044

The Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) represents the 34 Local Public Health Departments in Oregon who work to promote health and protect the public's health from the spread of disease. CLHO opposes the -11 amendment to SB 1044.

Oregon's Local Public Health Departments support a strong Indoor Clean Air Act (ICAA) that protects people from the health risks of secondhand smoke, and have worked over the years to ensure that there are no additional loopholes to weaken the ICAA.

It is not the intention of the ICAA law to allow or encourage people to linger beyond sampling a tobacco product and by allowing the on-site consumption of alcohol it would encourage lingering and potentially prolonged use of tobacco products.

The proposed exemptions allowing the consumption of alcohol in certified smoke shops are in direct violation of the ICAA and open a dangerous door to further weakening provisions in the Indoor Clean Air Act, once again exposing Oregonians to the dangers of secondhand smoke and vapor.

In addition to those concerns, the Oregon Health Authority does not receive resources to license and enforce the ICAA for exempt smoke shops. Adding more events and business to license or monitor would take away valuable resources that are instrumental in reducing tobacco use rates and preventing expensive chronic diseases in Oregon.

We urge the committee to reject the -11 amendments to SB 1044.

Thank you, Morgan D. Cowling Executive Director



