



Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon
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House Committee on Revenue
Testimony of The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
April 11, 2019

Madame Chair and members of the Committee:

My Name is Michael Collins. I am the Director of Managed Health Care for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon and I am here to express Warm Springs support of House Bill 2270.

We would like to thank the State of Oregon for working with our Tribe on the matter of tobacco and vaping/inhalant products.

These products continue to show harm in our tribal community. As of 2015, 36.2% of Central Oregonians use tobacco to smoke. And 14% are using vaping/e-cigarettes. And 5% use chewing tobacco.**

In Warm Springs we continue to offer services to our community to quit tobacco use through our cessation program and we also have a prevention program that works to keep people from ever starting to use tobacco products.

I want to deviate a little bit and give first hand testimony. I am a former smoker. I'll be the first to admit that I liked smoking. I made the choice to quit smoking and thought that I would use vaping to achieve that result. I found that decision to be one of the worst ever as I soon discovered that I was just substituting one drug for another. It's very much like saying "I'm going to quit drinking. So instead of having vodka every night, I'm going to have beer." My moment of realization to my addiction to tobacco came when my daughter refused to allow me to hold my grandchild. I said, I haven't smoked, my daughter said, but it is still on your clothes dad. I had to accept the fact at that moment that I was addicted. I am very happy to be able to hold my granddaughter today.

The Food and Drug Administration has not found any e-cigarette/vaping products to be safe and effective in helping smokers quit. To create an e-liquid, nicotine is extracted from tobacco and mixed with a base, usually propylene glycol, and may



