

To: Oregon House Committee on Health Care
From: Kevin Teater, Executive Director of the Beaverton Downtown Association
Subject: Public Testimony in Support of HB 4101 to increase smoking distances to 25 feet
Date: Thursday, February 3, 2022

Hi. My name is Kevin Teater. I am the executive director of the Beaverton Downtown Association, a City of Beaverton planning commissioner, and a candidate for Beaverton City Council.

I am here to speak on behalf of HB 4101 that will increase the distance within which people may not smoke from 10 feet to 25 feet from public places and places of employment.

My organization focuses on improving the livability of the downtown district. This focus includes supporting small businesses. It also includes the process of creating a wonderful neighborhood where kids can thrive and adults can engage with their community.

I've worked directly with the business community for the past 3.5 years, and I have built relationships with downtown residents and property owners during that time as well.

Our public sidewalks and streets have become more popular as downtown Beaverton has seen a resurgence. With the pandemic, people are spending more time outside in downtown together, and we want to make this as comfortable an environment for them as possible.

Inhaling unwanted smoke and vapors can make a person's experience in our downtown community much less enjoyable. People already breathe too many toxins from nearby roadways. We need cleaner air, and that's why I am happy to support this bill.

I do not believe it'll have a negative impact on businesses. Instead, by creating a more enjoyable and pleasant environment for everyone, we may even see an improvement economic vibrancy of our business districts across the state.

I ask you to act in support of public health, economic health, and the livability of our communities by supporting HB 4101.

Thank you.

Kevin Teater