

# SUSPENSION



## ***ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE***

92 Franklin Street - 4th Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**TO:** Members of the Erie County Legislature

**FROM:** Karen M. McCarthy, Clerk

**DATE:** January 26, 2015

**SUBJECT** Documents Received at Public Hearing on LL Intro. 9-1 (2014) "A Local Law in Relation to the Regulation of Electronic Cigarettes ("E-Cigarettes")

Please review the attached letters that were received on January 26, 2015 prior or after the Public Hearing regarding LL Intro. 9-1 (2014) "A Local Law in Relation to the Regulation of Electronic Cigarettes ("E-Cigarettes").

Thank you.

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My name is Vic Canastraro, and I own & operate Perfection Vapes throughout WNY. I would like to start by acknowledging to indoor clean air act and the ban on smoking cigarettes in public places, I have lost my Father and 2 Brothers to cigarettes in just the last 2 years and currently have another brother that was recently diagnosed with throat cancer, I oppose smoking in its entirety. I have been smoke free for over 5 years thanks to vaping..

We are aware some people are uncomfortable with the way vapor looks, and yes it does resemble smoke, but simple fact is that it is not smoke, it is water vapor... To date dozens of studies have been conducted and all that were not funded by Big Tobacco or Pharmaceutical companies (which our business unfortunately has effected their bottom line & income) have come back unanimously that e-cigarettes and vaporizers are not toxic when used properly (Meaning someone doesn't try putting a 747 jet engine into their pinto ).. In fact a recent study by Drexel University and the American Council of Health and Science have deemed inhaled as well as the exhaled vapor contains no harmful toxins even down to minute trace quantity's ... On the other hand another study was released recently conveniently that found formaldehyde in the vapor, but later recanted that the findings were taken out of context and that to produce the finding the voltages were amplified well beyond anything that could be produced in a properly used common vaporizer! Thus recanting their study and findings under scrutiny....

My point is this, if people buy and use these products without danger to themselves or others nearby, how can we justify banning it and pooling it with something that has for nearly a half century been known to kill the user and even harm nearby inhalers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> hand smoke expelled ... This would be like saying racial profiling is acceptable, if you don't like the way vapor looks and you can ban it, where's it stop? Because someone doesn't like the color of ones skin or maybe the way one styles their hair or maybe the type of perfume they wear, can you see where this leads?

Reality is the ingredients are inhaled and consumed daily by people and even people who have never smoked.. There are 2 to 3 ingredients, Vegetable Glycerin Propylene Glycol Flavoring and sometimes nicotine I say sometimes because many smokers who switch to vaping commonly start by utilizing nicotine in their e-liquid to wean themselves off nicotine and almost all drop their nicotine regularly till it isn't even in their "VAPE". And when I say people use and consume these inhalants every day let me explain, Nicotine is a naturally occurring by product found in dozens of products outside of tobacco i.e Strawberries, Cauliflower & Eggplant just to name a few. Vegetable glycerin can be found in everything from ingredients in our foods to our shampoo. And did you know most hospitals pump vaporized propylene glycol into the air ways in hospitals to improve respiratory function and to cut down on disease and infections from spreading? The main difference in what "Vapors" use it for is to get the feeling and look of the smoke they are so desperately trying to stay off of, cigarettes.

Bottom line is there are companies, very powerful & wealthy companies out there that are spreading propaganda in an attempt to maintain its stronghold on a marketplace they currently have a full on monopoly on.. This product was invented to get people off cigarettes yet They are spending millions of dollars to lobby our

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senate and even our local municipalities in order to tighten a market that the vapor industry has taken from them and they have since jumped into yes Big Tobacco own e-Blue cigarettes, Vuse and others .If they can make cigarettes the same as tobacco they keep control of it This product and proper use has potentially saved millions of lives by pulling them off conventional proven cancer causing cigarettes. Why would we stifle it. Those even in the infantile technology of the 1950's conclusively said conventional smoke expelling cigarettes were harmful. And why? Simple common sense Ill use this example, if you light a small BBQ in this room and close the doors we will all be dead in a matter of hours from smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning yet lets put 10 steam machines in this same room for 2 days and were all going to leave with really clean pours . Vapor has no Carbon Monoxide or carcinogens .. Yet for nearly 12 years vapor has been available in the world market and in the last 2 years of our incredible technology fueled world dozens of studies have been conducted and still not one can conclusively say its harmful ... In addition I understand The state feels its revenues may be getting shorted as a result of peoples converting to vapor, but I will share this with you, I have created nearly 20 Jobs here in WNY and abroad, and while the theory is that NYS may have lost revenues in fact the truth is we have brought those revenues back home thru sales tax and employment taxes, while 9 out of 10 of switchers to vaping were either going to the Reservations or accoss the PA line to get their smokes & save money, so in truth we have brought back revenues that has for a long time has been lost.

I Implore you Ill even beg you, don't be swayed by the corruption of big business and the manner in which they operate. If you are truly concerned with the health of your constituents, please look into genetically modified foods and the fact that since their implementation in 1992 we have seen a 400% spike in cancers among a swath of other new health problems, in fact many countries in Europe have banned their sale or even permission to grow them, while at the same time they have studied and allowed vaping.. If we allow this basic banning of vaporizers in public places by stating they are one in the same as tobacco we are effectively signing the death warrants of countless people who might be swayed from vaping by our government's convincing them it is one in the same as smoking or using tobacco, and I assure you I have quit smoking may times in my life Ive gone over a year cold turkey only to find some excuse to go back.. Its not smoke its water, its not tobacco, its technology, please search your minds to draw in the truth..

Thankyou

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Recently we interviewed on a story out of Roswell evaluating levels of formaldehyde released through vaping. Yesterday another study on this same topic was published in the New England Journal of Medicine and has been picked up by mainstream media. In this study, researchers measured formaldehyde using a variable voltage battery set at 3.3 and 5 volts. The vapor was collected and evaluated from an unnamed atomizer after a 4 second puff. The study found that at low voltage (3.3V) no formaldehyde was detected. However, at high voltage (5.0V), levels of formaldehyde were detected at levels up to 15 times higher than cigarette smoke.

Without further investigation on the methods and conclusion of this study, the results are very alarming. We feel it is our responsibility to dig deeper and provide the public with the whole truth.

One glaring problem with this publication is the researchers found formaldehyde hemiacetals (a combination of formaldehyde and alcohols) not formaldehyde. It is also important to know that formaldehyde is present everywhere. It is found in every person, smokers and nonsmokers alike, and can occur anytime hydrogen, carbon, and oxygen are in the presence of each other.

The truth is, this study is deeply flawed in many ways. In fact, it is highly irresponsible to publish a half truth and present it as science. For starters, as outlined by Dr. Konstantino Farsalinos, the authors of this study failed to mention (perhaps unknowingly) that volts do not measure thermal energy. Energy should be expressed in watts. Therefore, with the published information we do not know how many watts were applied to the atomizer.

Fortunately, Dr. Farsalinos used the information that was provided to approximate wattage settings. According to the study, 5mg of e-liquid

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were consumed at 3.3 volts. Based on measurements performed by Farsalinos, "...such consumption is observed at about 6-7 watts at 4-second puffs. Thus, the atomizer resistance is probably 1.6-1.8 ohms. This means that at 5 volts the energy was around 14-16 watts."

So, what does this mean in terms of realistic user conditions? If the resistance was between 1.6-1.8 ohms and the wattage is somewhere between 14-16 watts, the vaporizer is being overheated and the wicking material is being burned. Essentially, these researchers are collecting data on a dry or burnt hit.

What the authors of this study aren't accounting for is how easily this scenario is detected by the user. An electronic cigarette user would never vape at these settings. No one continuously vapes an overheated atomizer. The taste is unpleasant, to put it mildly. Therefore, no vaper will ever be exposed to the reported levels of formaldehyde.

This method of measuring aldehydes in a lab environment is deceptive and unfair. The public deserves clear and concise results from scientific studies. If researchers continue to publish misleading findings and the media continues with its sensationalism the results can be damaging. How many smokers are afraid to switch to a device that could potentially save their lives?

For a more detailed breakdown on this study, I urge you to read Dr. Farsalinos' response by following this link: [www.ecigarette-research.com](http://www.ecigarette-research.com)

### **Sources:**

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