

Representative Tom Cole
2467 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Cole,

I am writing to express support and gratitude for your bill, the FDA Deeming Authority Clarification Act of 2015 (H.R. 2058), which would protect my access to the variety of quality vapor products (otherwise known as e-cigarettes) currently on the market and help a million plus Americans continue to live smoke-free. Moreover, H.R. 2058 is a boon to the millions of current smokers who are seeking an effective means to help them transition away from deadly combustible cigarettes.

As written, the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) proposed regulations would effectively remove 99% of vapor products from the market by subjecting manufacturers to a costly premarket approval application process that only a few large companies might hope to navigate. Consumers would be left to choose from a very limited number of products that were on the market prior to the February 2007 grandfather date -- products that are remarkably less effective and, by some accounts, less safe. As a result, not only would a large number of us return to smoking, but millions of current smokers would be encouraged to continue smoking.

For decades, smokers have been told to just use mediocre smoking cessation aids that are barely helpful, if that; mostly they just triggered cessation by those who were happy to simply quit unaided. Although smoking rates have declined substantially since people first learned about the hazards, they are now only slowly creeping down, and mostly because older smokers are dying, not quitting. For the vast majority of smokers who are not willing and able to just quit, electronic cigarettes offer them a satisfying, low-risk substitute, often the only path away from smoking other than dying.

I and my fellow members of the Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives Association (CASAA) thank you for considering my comments and look forward to your continued support of Tobacco Harm Reduction policies. We are truly grateful for your introduction of H.R. 2058 and would like to offer any assistance we can to advance this bill.

Sincerely,