

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

*Liz Kniss, President
Fifth District Supervisor*



May 19, 2009

The Honorable Ellen Corbett
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SJR 8 (Corbett) As Introduced – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Corbett: *Ellen*

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support your Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 8 related to electronic cigarettes.

Serious health concerns are being raised by a new nicotine delivery product being offered for sale in Santa Clara County. "Electronic Cigarettes," also known as e-cigarettes, are a battery-powered device that vaporizes a nicotine solution when a user inhales through the device. E-cigarettes are being marketed as an alternative to smoked tobacco products, such as cigarettes, cigars, or pipes. The devices are currently available in several malls in our County.

We have a number of concerns with e-cigarettes: since they contain nicotine, we believe they should be subject to regulation by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Additionally, because this product has undergone no regulatory analysis, we have no information about what effect they may have on consumers' health. Finally, we have significant concerns with the potential risk of creating new nicotine addictions, particularly among youth. As you are well aware, smoking rates in the U.S. are currently higher among adolescents than adults and it is feared that this product could encourage more to smoke. Our own Public Health Department has received multiple reports of teens being offered e-cigarettes at local mall kiosks.

Your SJR 8 would address these concerns by reiterating the importance of local, state, and federal governments promoting ways to prevent the use of nicotine products by children, and requesting that the FDA, which has jurisdiction over the regulation of nicotine products, prohibit all sales of electronic cigarettes until they have been found to



be safe. We are pleased to support your effort, and thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Liz Kriss
President, Board of Supervisors

c: Members, Santa Clara County Legislative Delegation
Board of Supervisors
Gary A. Graves, Acting County Executive
Michael Rattigan, Legislative Representative

Thank you
this!
Liz