



# ORD-17 Correspondence-Amazeen

February 11, 2014

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The Honorable Bob Foster, Mayor  
Long Beach City Council  
333 W. Ocean Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90802

[lung.org/california](http://lung.org/california)

Dear Mayor Foster:

The American Lung Association in California supports the Long Beach City Council's action to protect the public health of Long Beach residents by including electronic cigarettes in its tobacco retailer permit and smokefree air laws.

The American Lung Association is concerned that very little is known about the health effects of electronic cigarettes and of the vapors that they release, or what the health consequences of them might be. Two initial studies have found formaldehyde, benzene and tobacco-specific nitrosamines (a cancer-causing chemical) coming from the secondhand emissions from e-cigarettes. While we have a lot more to learn about these products, it's clear that there is much to be concerned about and there's a lot more than just "water vapor" in these products. In addition, it is important to note that e-cigarettes have not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to be safe and effective in helping smokers quit cigarettes.

And finally, it's worth highlighting that the e-cigarette industry appears to be using the same playbook as the cigarette companies did a generation ago. We are deeply concerned that these products are starting kids on a lifetime addiction to nicotine. According to one researcher, there are more than 250 e-cigarette brands for sale today, over half of which offered fruit or candy-flavors. We've seen candy-flavors including Captain Crunch, gummy bear, cotton candy, Atomic Fireball and fruit loops.

It is critical for communities to remain on the cutting edge in protecting their residents from new and emerging tobacco products, and this law does just that. We applaud Long Beach for taking this important action to protect public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimberly Amazeen".

Kimberly Amazeen  
Vice President, Programs & Advocacy

Cc: Members of the Long Beach City Council

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