



Resolution to Raise North Dakota's Tobacco Tax

Adopted by Tobacco Free North Dakota Board of Directors on May 23, 2022

Whereas according to the 2020 US Surgeon General's Report on Smoking Cessation, increasing tobacco excise taxes have proven highly effective in preventing initiation among youth, reducing tobacco use by promoting cessation among current users, discouraging relapse among former users, and reducing consumption among those who continue to use tobacco;

Whereas tobacco use remains North Dakota's leading preventable cause of death, killing more people than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined;

Whereas 5.9% of youth in North Dakota use cigarettes, and 200 North Dakota children (under 18) become new daily smokers each year, of whom more than 14,000 will die prematurely because of this addiction;

Whereas 19.8% (115,100) of adults in North Dakota smoke and nearly 1,000 North Dakotans will die each year from smoking and smoking-related disease, including 27% of cancer deaths in ND that are attributed to tobacco use;

Whereas Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, or ENDS, products are not currently approved by the FDA as a cessation device;

Whereas 21.2% of youth in North Dakota used ENDS products in the previous 30 days, many of whom using flavored products that have been marketed to kids by the tobacco industry;

Whereas ENDS have little to no regulation around content and flavorings, and ENDS products are not currently classified as tobacco products in North Dakota even though they deliver nicotine in the same way for the same purpose as other tobacco products;

Whereas tobacco use in North Dakota imposes a severe economic burden, with smoking-caused direct healthcare costs amounting to \$326 million each year, smoking-caused productivity losses approximating \$232.6 million annually, and each household paying \$916 per year in state and federal taxes from smoking-caused government expenditures;

Whereas each year, the North Dakota government Medicaid payments directly related to tobacco use are \$56.9 million;

Whereas the current cigarette tax of \$0.44 per pack, pipe tobacco and cigar tax at 28% of the

wholesale purchase price, and snuff tax at \$0.60 per ounce, ranking North Dakota one of the four cheapest tobacco states in the nation;

Whereas the legislative body in North Dakota has not enacted legislation to increase our state's tobacco taxes since 1993; and defeated legislation as recently as 2021;

Whereas the Tobacco Industry spends \$38.2 million each year marketing in ND and an undisclosed amount on lobbyists during the regular and interim sessions;

Whereas this resolution addresses commercial tobacco, which is different from traditional tobacco used in American Indian spiritual and ceremonial practices;

Now therefore be it resolved, _____ supports increasing the tobacco tax in North Dakota as a proven way to prevent youth tobacco initiation, encourage a reduction of adult tobacco use, reduce health care costs, and provide an overall benefit to public health. Further, _____ endorses legislative efforts to reform North Dakota's tax on all tobacco products, and to include classifying ENDS as tobacco products.

_____	_____	_____
Name of Organization Representative	Signature of Organization Representative	Date

i Surgeon General's Report on Smoking Cessation <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2020-cessation-sgr-full-report.pdf>

ii The Toll of Tobacco in the United States, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids
<https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us>

iii Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Key State-Specific Tobacco Data and Rankings June 7, 2018
<https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/assets/factsheets/0176.pdf>

iv North Dakota Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2019-2021
https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/OSE/YRBS/2021ND-High-School_YRBS-Summary-Tables.pdf

v President's Cancer Panel's 2007 report, Promoting Healthy Lifestyles,
<http://archive.tobacco.org/news/251230.html>

vi The Toll of Tobacco in North Dakota, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids
https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/north_dakota

vii ND Office of the State Tax Commissioner