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February 21, 2018

Suzanne McGee Cienki,
President, Town Council
East Greenwich Town Hall
125 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI, 02818

cc: Town Manager, Gayle Corrigan

Re: Ordinance to amend the Code of the Town of East Greenwich,
Chapter 166 Parks and Recreation (as amended) to add Article IV
Tobacco Free Facilities

Dear President McGee Cienki and Members of the East Greenwich
Town Council,

The American Lung Association in Rhode Island is grateful for the
opportunity to support the strengthening and updating of East
Greenwich's Tobacco Free Parks and Recreation ordinance to
include all tobacco and nicotine products.

As part of the oldest voluntary health organization in America, our
mission remains to save lives by improving lung health and
preventing lung disease. While we have come a long way, tobacco
remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in
Rhode Island and kills approximately 1,800 RI adults each year.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Surgeon General's Report (Health Consequences of Involuntary
Exposure to Tobacco Smoke), "there is no safe level of exposure to
second-hand smoke, also called passive, involuntary or
environmental tobacco smoke."

Expanding East Greenwich's Tobacco Free Parks and Recreation
regulations to include ALL tobacco (ie: hookah, little cigars,
cigarillo's, etc) and electronic nicotine devices (ENDS) is a
commonsense measure to reduce the public's exposure to

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secondhand smoke and electronic nicotine device emissions and prioritizes citizens' rights to breathe healthy air that is free from secondhand smoke and aerosols from ENDS.

While e-cigarettes do not contain smoke, they do expose others to secondhand emissions. The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that e-cigarette aerosol is not harmless and may contain harmful and potentially harmful chemicals, including nicotine. Other studies have found formaldehyde, benzene and tobacco-specific nitrosamines (all carcinogens) contained in those secondhand emissions.

The U.S. Surgeon General's Report (E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults) also concluded that e-cigarette use is strongly associated with the use of other tobacco products among youth and young adults and e-cigarette use amongst youth is now a significant public health concern and steps must be taken by parents, educators and especially policymakers to discourage use of e-cigarettes.

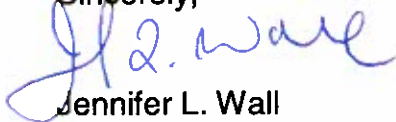
There are numerous benefits to establishing comprehensive smokefree outdoor public spaces:

- Protects children and adults from secondhand smoke and aerosol emissions;
- Assists those who quit or are trying to quit (less exposure and space to consume);
- Decreases negative role modeling for children (reduces the perception that smoking is a normal and socially acceptable behavior);
- Protects children, wildlife and the environment from toxic litter.

The American Lung Association in Rhode Island commends you and your colleagues for your leadership to make East Greenwich's public places healthier and safer for all to enjoy and we fully support you adopting this ordinance. If there are further questions, I can be reached at 401-533-5179 or Jennifer.Wall@Lung.org

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jennifer L. Wall
Director of Health Education & Public Policy
American Lung Association, Rhode Island

