

**Business Leaders  
Speak Out on Smokefree Air**

---

*"Every single fear that was injected into this argument in New York has not only not come to pass, but it's been just the opposite. Restaurants are busier than ever. Bars are busier than ever."*

**Dan Meyer, President  
Union Square Hospitality Group<sup>1</sup>  
New York**

*"I have read and agree with the many studies that show that there is no adverse economic impact on businesses in cities where smokefree ordinances have passed. In fact, studies show an increase in revenue in most situations.... We have enormous potential to lower the healthcare costs that our businesses must pay. The creation of smokefree workplaces will help us do that.... There are thousands of cities, some states, Canadian providences and a number of countries that have adopted complete smokefree ordinances with no exemptions. I urge you to do the same."*

**Michael Maurer, President  
Indiana Economic Development Corporation<sup>2</sup>**

*"We believe this [smokefree] bill will not adversely impact the business community."*

**Robin Comstock  
Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce<sup>3</sup>  
New Hampshire**

*"A number of cities in Texas have enacted this [smokefree] ordinance. It has not impacted business. We want Beaumont to be at the forefront, not the last community to respond to what has become a significant public health issue."*

**Jim Rich, President  
Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce<sup>4</sup>  
Texas**

*"In this case [Washington State's Initiative 901], we can do something to create a truly healthy environment for employees and customers while also helping businesses with their bottom-line."*

**Steve Leahy, President & CEO  
Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce <sup>5</sup>**

*"First, supporting and enacting public smoking bans is good public policy for a number of excellent health, economic and liability reasons. The latter reason is one that few businesses have thought about. I believe businesses that continue to allow smoking risk lawsuits for exposing employees/customers to known carcinogens. One simply cannot rationally argue against these reasons and businesses are placing themselves in economic peril ... [I]n spite of gloomy predictions, the world does not end when smoking is banned in public places. On the contrary, while the evidence is still being gathered, some Bloomington bars and restaurants are reporting increases in post-ban business...[I] believe Chamber endorsement of the ban provided the 'tipping point' stimulus that gave lawmakers the necessary political shelter to vote for the ban...We certainly gained community respect."*

**Steve Howard, President  
Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce <sup>6</sup>  
Indiana**

*"Tempe's hospitality community does not suffer in the least bit from the ban. It is a pleasure going into restaurants and bars without smelling like a cigarette afterward. Our residents and visitors feel the same and there has not been any negative 'backlash' for the ban."*

**Stephanie Nowack, President and CEO  
Tempe Convention and Visitors Bureau <sup>7</sup>  
Arizona**

*"We believe that this piece of legislation ... has reasonable controls and is responsible in terms of really making a difference in the community and ultimately helping us reach our vision of becoming an economic hot spot."*

**Steve Higdon, President  
Greater Louisville Inc.'s Chamber of Commerce <sup>8</sup>  
Kentucky**

*"The facts prove that banning smoking in public places will not adversely affect business. In fact, one year after New York City enacted its smoking ban, business activity actually increased in restaurants and bars and 10,000 jobs were added. We understand the angst of some establishment owners, but we truly believe that this will be positive for businesses in Philadelphia, both in terms of bottom-line performance and the related health benefits to patrons and employees. This is both a sound business position and a serious public health concern. From the Chamber's standpoint, it makes sense to support a smoking ban."*

**Mark Schweiker, President & CEO  
Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce <sup>9</sup>  
Pennsylvania**

*"The time has come; there is plenty of evidence that second-hand smoke causes lung cancer, especially in young people. It is a trend across the nation, and a ban would give us an opportunity to differentiate ourselves from other communities that are dragging their feet."*

**Dan Allen, President  
Muncie-Delaware County Chamber of Commerce <sup>10</sup>  
Indiana**

*"[Restaurant] and bar business is so vital that I think it [Boulder, Colorado's smokefree law] actually made it [business] stronger."*

**Stan Zemler, President  
Boulder Chamber of Commerce <sup>11</sup>  
Colorado**

*"Secondhand smoke is a real danger... I know some of us in the business community were given pause by this new [100% smokefree] ordinance. After all, new mandates too often can raise costs, interfere with productivity and intrude unnecessarily on the private sector. But I want to suggest that stopping smoking and demanding clean air are business issues. Nothing is better for business than a healthy, productive work force.... In business, we recognize that it is essential today to create a workplace culture*

*that values employees. We ought to be clear that we also value the health of our employees.... We should be proud that we live in a community that is leading the way in the push for a better, healthier quality of life. Together we are creating the workplace we all want for the future,"*

Jim Hinton, Chairman  
Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce<sup>12</sup>  
New Mexico

*"We [the Chamber of Commerce] were trying to look what was best for our members and what was best for the community. We felt, again, the health issues [sic] was an important issue we needed to address because even our smaller members are affected by this [secondhand smoke] one way or another..."*

Dave Long, Executive Vice President  
Crawfordsville - Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce<sup>13</sup>  
Indiana

*"[A]t the time the ordinance was presented, we [the Chamber of Commerce] were extremely wary of it. We feared that the ban on smoking would cost the community revenue, jobs, tax dollars, tourists and tourist-generated income. We ended up coming out in support of the ordinance, seeing it as a leap of faith that wouldn't hurt business. Suffice it to say, our initial fears were unfounded and today, I'm pleased to report that the effects have been extremely positive..."*

David Garth, President/CEO  
San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce<sup>14</sup>  
California

*"Everybody knows it's coming, it's a non-issue to a great extent."*

Scott McCammon, Executive Director  
Burlington Chamber of Commerce<sup>15</sup>  
Ontario, Canada

## REFERENCES

1. ABC 7 News – Chicago, October 25, 2005
2. Maurer, M., "[Letter to Greenfield City Council re: smokefree ordinances.]," October 7, 2005.
3. [n.a.], "House prepares for vote on smoking ban," TheWMURChannel.com, March 8, 2006.
4. [n.a.], "Beaumont Chamber of Commerce supports smoking ban," KBTV NBC 4, March 20, 2006.
5. Leahy, S., "I-901: Good for Business in Washington," Healthy Indoor Air Washington, November 3, 2005. Download at [http://www.healthyindoorairwa.org/i\\_901\\_good\\_for\\_jobs\\_and\\_business/](http://www.healthyindoorairwa.org/i_901_good_for_jobs_and_business/). Accessed on November 3, 2005.
6. Howard, S., "[Letter to whom it may concern re: Smoking Bans are Good]," [n.s.], February 1, 2005.
7. Nowack, S., "[President and CEO of Tempe Convention and Visitors Bureau re: Letter to Cynthia Hallett, Executive Director of ANR.]," [n.s.], June 22, 2005.
8. Gerth, J. "Chamber to back smoke ban: Business group's stance is new," Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal, June 4, 2005. Downloaded at <http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050604/NEWS01/506040422>. Accessed on June 6, 2005.
9. [n.a.], "Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce Supports City Council Bill to Ban Smoking in Public Places," PRNewswire, March 4, 2005.
10. McBride, M., "Chamber backs curbs on smoking," Star Press, January 14, 2006.
11. Sovak, K., "Clearing the air: restaurant owners divided over no smoking issue," Minot Daily News Online, March 28, 2001.
12. Hinton, J., "Stopping smoking is a business matter," Business Outlook, July 22, 2004.
13. [n.a.], "Chamber of Commerce Gets Involved in Smoking Ban Debate," WLFJ-Lafayette (IN), June 17, 2005.
14. Garth, D., President/CEO of San Luis Obispo (CA) Chamber of Commerce. "Letter to Nebraska Senators from San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce in favor of Smokefree Legislation." January 29, 2001.
15. Smith, D. "Workplace smoking ban a 'non-issue' for local businesses," Burlington (Ontario, Canada) Post, October 28, 2002.