

# Cook County Tax Meeting

Thursday, October 29, 2015

5:04 PM

My name is Tim Hoogland. I am from Oak Lawn Illinois. I am speaking today regarding the proposed \$0.20 per milliliter of eliquid tax. I am very involved in the vaping community here in Cook County both personally and professionally.

I want to say that I am against this tax on the eliquids for multiple reasons.

The first reason is that this tax would directly increase tax on the eluqids and that is where the vape shops primarily generate their revenue. For example a popular brand of liquid sells their 120ml bottles for \$35 each. This would impose an additional \$24 on top of that bringing the total to almost \$60 in cook county. If you also take into consideration that Chicago has a 0.25 per ml tax they passed, which I also firmly oppose, this will take that bottle of liquid to almost \$90 in Chicago.

While I understand the counties need for additional revenue this is not how to do it. Shops in cook county, and especially chicago, will be forced to close and/or move to other counties. There will be minimal additional revenue, if any shops still around, if this passes. I know myself and I would gladly drive to another county that did not have this tax to save a substantial amount, need I even mention buying it online?

Another reason is that these taxes are imposed because they are a sort of "sin" tax similar to cigarettes and other tobacco products. Placing these taxes will discourage people to make the switch to something that at a MINIMUM has been shown to be at least 95% less harmful than smoking tobacco products. Vaping is NOT a tobacco product.

I have personally seen many family and friends switch to vaping and have seen not only drastic savings in finances but more importantly great improvements to their health. My close friend was a smoker for

10 years and started smoking at 13. He has been off of cigarettes for over 2 years now thanks to vaping and his health and wallet thank him for making the switch. I have lost a few family members, ~~as well as my fiancée~~, to lung cancer due to smoking.

Putting this tax on the liquids will drive the local business out and force people to either not switch at all or for those that were starting to smoke, to pickup smoking cigarettes.

There are many claims that the vapor contains many harmful chemicals from flawed studies and this is the mis-information that has been spread around by people, news outlets, and social media. If you want to know more you can visit the CASAA website at [www.CASAA.org](http://www.CASAA.org).

In closing I want you to strongly reconsider placing these taxes on vapor products as it will hurt local businesses, discourage people to switch to a healthy alternative, and drive more business out of Cook County. If you need more information on vaping I am available at your disposal and my contact info is on this sheet. Thank you for your time.

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