

National Indian Health Board



National Indian Health Board Resolution 19-03

Resolution on Electronic Smoking Devices and Tobacco Industry Sponsorships

WHEREAS, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), established in 1972, serves all Federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribal governments by advocating for the improvement of health care delivery to AI/ANs, as well as upholding the Federal government’s trust responsibility to AI/AN Tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, NIHB recognizes and affirms the cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial use of traditional tobacco as an integral part of traditional, native life; and

WHEREAS, AI /AN people have the highest rate of commercial tobacco use in the Nation; and

WHEREAS, commercial tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease and AI/AN people suffer serious health consequences including heart disease and cancer; and

WHEREAS, electronic smoking devices (ESDs) are not a proven smoking cessation device but are an alternative nicotine delivery device that will maintain or restore the nicotine habit, can addict a new generation to nicotine, and can pave a way to increased use of conventional cigarettes; and

WHEREAS, nicotine exposure from aerosolized ESD can negatively impact developing fetuses as well as teenage brain development; and

WHEREAS, according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), ESDs expose users to known carcinogens and toxic chemicals; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2016 U.S. Surgeon General’s Report on e-cigarette use among youth and young adults, ESDs are now the most commonly used form of tobacco by youth in the United States and 85% of ESD users ages 12-17 use flavored products; and

WHEREAS, ESD proponents are deceptively marketing the products to the public—especially to young adults via social media—as a “safe” alternative to smoking and an easy way to quit smoking tobacco cigarettes and entice use with flavors attractive to youth; and

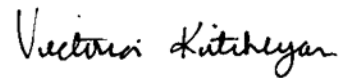
WHEREAS, E-cigarette and commercial tobacco industry companies are targeting Tribes and Tribal organizations to engage in partnerships and sponsorships with them, in exchange for access to Tribal leaders, decision makers and citizens so those tobacco companies can deliver marketing materials and misinformation to establish/expand a market for their products in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, the health of our people is of utmost importance and NIHB has taken a lead in addressing health issues throughout the years;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the NIHB shall neither solicit nor accept any commercial tobacco or ESD-related funding or sponsorship of events or activities, nor will NIHB partner with commercial tobacco or ESD-related companies to further their goals of establishing or expanding a market for commercial tobacco or ESD in Indian Country.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board, with quorum present, on the 12th day of June, 2019.



Chairperson, Victoria Kitcheyan

ATTEST:



Secretary, Lisa Elgin