

Resolution 4-13

Resolution to Support Tax Equity on Other Tobacco Products

TO THE HONORABLE SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF POLK:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control (MMWR, August 2012), while consumption of cigarettes decreased 32.8% from 2000 to 2011, consumption of loose tobacco and cigars increased 123.1% over the same period; and

WHEREAS, since 2009, the increase in the federal tobacco excise taxes has created tax disparities between cigarettes and other tobacco product types; and

WHEREAS, other tobacco products very similar to cigarettes, such as little cigars and cigarillos, present the same health risk as cigarettes, yet are taxed at significantly lower rates, which makes them cheaper and more accessible to children; and

WHEREAS, such products are offered with candy flavoring and bright colors, making them extremely appealing to a younger, non-smoking audience; and

WHEREAS, the use of these products is on the rise among youth, and these products are addictive in nature, likely to result in a lifelong addiction to nicotine; and

WHEREAS, the tax imposed on cigarettes has been proven to help smokers quit and keep others, especially youth from starting to smoke; and

WHEREAS, the costs resulting from the use of tobacco negatively affect Wisconsin businesses, taxpayers and families

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Polk County Board of Supervisors hereby supports the policy of tax equity on other tobacco products so that those products are taxed and treated the same as cigarettes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be mailed to Governor Walker, Senators Harsdorf and Jauch, Representatives Severson and Smith, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Funding Amount: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

Date Finance Committee Advised: N/A

Finance Committee Recommendation: N/A

Effective Date: Upon passage

Date Submitted to County Board: January 15, 2013

Resolution 4-13: Resolution to Support Tax Equity on Other Tobacco Products

Submitted upon recommendation of the Polk County Health Board:

Patricia M. Schmidt

Review By County Administrator:

- Recommended
- Not Recommended
- Reviewed Only

Dana Frey, County Administrator

Review By Corporation Counsel:

- Approved as to Form
- Recommended
- Not Recommended
- Reviewed Only

Jeffrey B. Fuge, Corporation Counsel

County Board Action:

On the 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 2013, the Polk County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 4-13: Resolution to Support Tax Equity on Other Tobacco Products, by a majority vote of supervisors of 14 in favor and 7 against.

William F. Johnson, IV  
Chairperson

ATTEST:

Carole T. Wondra  
Carole T. Wondra, County Clerk

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2013.

STATE OF WISCONSIN    )  
  ) SS  
C OUNTY OF POLK        )

I, Carole T. Wondra, Clerk for Polk County, do hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 4-13 that was adopted by the Polk County Board of Supervisors on January 15, 2012.

Carole T Wondra                    1-16-13  
Carole T. Wondra                    Date  
Polk County Clerk