



Senate Finance and Taxation Committee

HB 1440

February 17, 2025

Senator Mark Weber, Chair

Summary:

- The City of Bismarck **strongly opposes HB1440** relating to cigar lounges.

Testimony:

Chairman Weber and Members of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee:

On behalf of the City of Bismarck, I am Susan Kahler, Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator and today I offer testimony in **strongly oppose** to HB1440.

This bill would create a public health issue with exposure to secondhand smoke from cigars and now pipe smoke. I receive many phones and comments from citizens of Bismarck about how much they appreciate the Smoke Free Ordinance and State Law. As some you may recall the on April 11th, 2011, Bismarck voters laid the issue to rest, deciding for all that everyone, including bar workers and patrons, should be able to breathe clean indoor air and same thing in 2012 statewide.

Under current law, cigars and pipe smoke are considered tobacco products and contribute to serious health issues like lung cancer and heart disease. Research shows that secondhand smoke from all tobacco products is harmful. Measures like ventilation or separating smokers don't fully protect nonsmokers—eliminating smoking indoors is the only effective solution.

HB 1440 would allow cigar and pipe smoking indoors, exposing others to secondhand smoke and creating enforcement challenges in establishments serving alcohol. It weakens regulations by offering limited oversight and no requirement to confirm cigar or pipe income.

The ND Smoke Free Law was passed in 2012 to protect everyone from secondhand smoke exposure and provide equality for all. I, and on the behalf of the City of Bismarck Commission, oppose HB 1440. Thank you. This concludes my testimony. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

Susan Kahler, SAP Coordinator
City of Bismarck
skahler@bismarcknd.gov
701.355.1597





