



Position Paper

Date: June 30, 2006
Subject: Smoking Ban Position

The Fishers Chamber of Commerce does not support smoking, and, in light of the obvious health concerns, we encourage all smokers to make every effort to stop smoking. The health community has done an excellent job of raising awareness of the health risks associated with smoking, and we believe that customers of restaurants and bars will continue to express their thoughts and desires on this issue to the owners of those businesses. Businesses are responsive to the wishes and desires of their customers and should be entrusted to make appropriate decisions on whether or not to maintain a smoke-free environment. We should not interject government into what should be a free-market decision between businesses and their customers.

A smoking ban on businesses would unduly restrict the business community and eliminate the competitive advantage of those businesses which have chosen to voluntarily maintain a smoke-free environment. The Fishers Chamber of Commerce believes that the free-market system should drive the determination as to whether or not a business maintains a smoking or a non-smoking environment. There are a large number of smoke-free restaurants and bars in the Town of Fishers, which indicates that the free-market system is working and that this approach has been effective. We note that, in general, the imposition of restrictive laws or regulations on businesses can impede the growth of the business community.

The Board of Directors of the Fishers Chamber of Commerce opposes a Smoking Prohibition in the Town of Fishers.