



For Immediate Release
June 11, 2008

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**PENNSYLVANIA SENATE PASSES STATEWIDE SMOKE-FREE
LEGISLATION PROTECTING MOST PENNSYLVANIA WORKERS**

Workers in many industries, however, remain unprotected from secondhand smoke

Philadelphia, PA - On June 10, the Pennsylvania Senate followed the House's action last week in passing statewide smoke-free legislation that will protect workers in most industries in Pennsylvania from the dangers of secondhand smoke. Though Clean Air Council appreciates that the House and Senate have taken action to protect Pennsylvania's citizens from secondhand smoke in the workplace, the Council is disappointed that some classes of workers have been left unprotected by Senate Bill 246, and that the measure deprives local governments other than Philadelphia of the right to adopt stricter non-smoking regulations.

"All Pennsylvanians deserve that which the majority of Americans already have: entirely smoke-free workplaces," said Joe Minott, Executive Director of Clean Air Council. "Neighboring states, including Delaware, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, and Ohio, already have comprehensive smoking bans and Pennsylvania deserves the same."

Smoke-free bans have many proven benefits, including rapid improvement of workers' respiratory health. Research also shows that smoking bans have no negative economic consequences for businesses. Moreover, the majority of citizens - smokers and non-smokers alike - support smoke-free laws.

While it is encouraging that the House and Senate have taken a step toward protecting Pennsylvanians from secondhand smoke, Clean Air Council remains concerned for employees of casinos, bars, and other workplaces overlooked by Senate Bill 246. The Council continues to urge Pennsylvania's lawmakers to create legislation that ensures that everyone in the state is protected from tobacco smoke in the workplace.

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