

Why the ‘Green Circle’ Approach is Wrong for Northern Kentucky

When a smoke-free ordinance is proposed, anti-health groups often suggest “compromises” such as the Green Circle signs. These recommendations come from the tobacco industry playbook and they do not protect public health.

The ‘Green Circle’ approach does not change the status quo

- Posting signs is no different than the current situation in Northern Kentucky.
- Workers and the public remain exposed to dangerous toxins in secondhand smoke. The ‘Green Circle’ approach would put our loved ones at serious risk!
- “Compromise” policies give the illusion that something is being done to protect nonsmokers from secondhand smoke when, in reality, workers remain unprotected.¹

The ‘Green Circle’ does not protect workers

- The U.S. Surgeon General has declared that the only way to protect the workforce from secondhand smoke is to completely eliminate it indoors.² Posting signs does not reduce the toxic chemicals in the air.
- All workers and patrons deserve to breathe safe, smoke-free air.

The ‘Green Circle’ is an accommodation strategy promoted by the tobacco industry

- Posting signs such as the Green Circle approach is consistent with the tobacco industry argument that smoking is an “adult choice.”
- Phillip Morris, the National Smokers Alliance, and other anti-health groups with tobacco industry ties have been linked with past attempts to derail effective smoke-free laws by suggesting compromise like the ‘Green Circle.’³

The bottom line is that the goal of smoke-free laws is to protect the health of all workers. Posting signs to notify patrons if establishments allow smoking or not does not protect those who work in Northern Kentucky’s bars, restaurants, and other workplaces.

For more information, contact the Kentucky Center for Smoke-Free Policy at 859-323-4587.

¹ Americans for Nonsmokers’ Rights, “Don’t Let Big Tobacco Give Smoke-Free Ordinances the Red Light,” Fact Sheet, June 2005.

² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*. 2006. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease and Prevention and Promotion, Office of Smoking and Health: Atlanta, GA.

³ Philip Morris. Interoffice Correspondence. Bates Document # 2022839335. January 1994.