

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 13, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- David Willoughby, Chief Executive Officer of ClearWay Minnesota, made this statement today, reacting to bills introduced by Representative Laurie Halverson (DFL-Eagan) and Representative Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Minneapolis) that would treat e-cigarettes like conventional cigarettes under the Freedom to Breathe Act, Minnesota's smoke-free policy.

"We want to thank Representatives Halverson and Kahn for championing this important issue," said Willoughby. "There is a lot we don't know about e-cigarettes, including the potential harm of vapor. Including e-cigarettes in the Freedom to Breathe Act will uphold the standard of clean indoor air that Minnesotans expect and support."

"Despite what we don't know about these devices, we do know that they appeal to kids, and come in flavors like chocolate, bubble gum and fruit punch," he said. "Representative Halverson's bill would put e-cigarettes behind the counter and penalize those who sell them to minors like we do with other tobacco products. These are important steps to help keep our kids safe from addiction."

About ClearWay MinnesotaSM *ClearWay Minnesota is an independent nonprofit organization that improves the health of Minnesotans by reducing the harm caused by tobacco. ClearWay Minnesota serves Minnesota through its grant-making program, QUITPLAN[®] stop-smoking services and statewide outreach activities. It is funded with three percent of the state's 1998 tobacco settlement. For more information on ClearWay Minnesota or QUITPLAN Services, call 952-767-1400 or visit clearwaymn.org.*

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ClearWay Minnesota thanks Reps. Halverson and Kahn for upholding standard of clean indoor air, protect

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