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ANN WILKINSON  
Assistant Attorney General

April 24, 2003

Assemblyman Bernie Anderson, Chair  
Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Building  
Carson City, NV 89701

RE: Senate Bill 315

Dear Chairman Anderson:

I am writing to ask your committee to take one step to protect children from tobacco. I am writing in support of SB 315, which would ban cigarette vending machines except in gaming areas and bars where children under 21 are prohibited from loitering.

As you are aware, in 1995 the Attorney General's office was assigned the responsibility of conducting compliance checks and enforcing the state law prohibiting the sale of tobacco to children under 18 years of age. The Attorney General has conducted compliance checks of cigarette vending machines as well as over the counter outlets.

After a check of a vending machine, I have written letters to the business where the machine is located and asked that the machine be moved to an adults-only area such as a bar or gaming area. Most businesses comply with that request. As a result, the Attorney General's office can identify only 10 to 20 cigarette vending machines that remain placed outside of an adults-only area.

Despite this voluntary success, younger children purchase cigarettes from vending machines. According to the 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Survey 42% of middle school students who bought their own cigarettes purchased them from a cigarette vending machine. The 2001 Youth Tobacco Survey shows a higher result. It says 53% of middle school students who purchased their own cigarettes purchased them at a cigarette vending machine.

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY

DATE: 4/29/03 ROOM 3138 EXHIBIT E 10-2

SUBMITTED BY: Cynthia Puzak

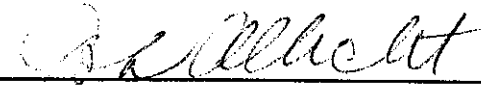
SB 315 would require all cigarette vending machines to be placed in bar or gaming areas. Visitors to Nevada who are adults would still have convenient places to purchase cigarettes. For example, resorts without gaming could sell tobacco in the bar at a vending machine or in the gift shop. Of course, resorts with gaming areas could sell tobacco at vending machines on their gaming areas and at their gift and other retail shops.

The Attorney General asks that the Assembly Judiciary Committee recommend that SB 315 be passed.

Sincere regards,

BRIAN SANDOVAL  
Attorney General

By:

  
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