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January 31, 2019

The Honorable Henry Stern, Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water
State Capitol, Room 5046
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **HOAC Supports Senate Bill 8 (Glazer)**

Dear Senator Stern:

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers of California's sixty-one city and county local health jurisdictions, supports SB 8 (Glazer). This bill would prohibit the smoking and disposing of tobacco products at state beaches and units of the state park system. By discouraging tobacco use and limiting public exposure to secondhand smoke, SB 8 will mitigate the harmful impacts of these products, which lead to a lifetime of health effects and come at a heavy cost to California's healthcare systems.

Despite its diminishing prevalence over the last decade, the use of tobacco continues to threaten public health and drain our state's healthcare resources. Considered to be the leading cause of preventable deaths in the United States, smoking places a heavy economic burden on California, costing our state billions in direct and indirect health expenses from smoking-related illnesses, premature deaths, and lost productivity. Tobacco use exhausts valuable public resources and annually costs California's taxpayers more than \$18 billion.

HOAC is dedicated to promoting practices that improve the health of California's residents and believes SB 8 would be a step forward for our state. Should you have any questions regarding our position on this matter, I invite you to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kat DeBurgh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Steve Glazer