



STATE OF DELAWARE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RUTH ANN MINNER  
GOVERNOR

November 6, 2006

Ms. Regina Carlson  
New Jersey GASP  
105 Mountain Avenue  
Summit, NJ 07901

Dear Ms. Carlson,

Delaware's Clean Indoor Air Act went into effect in November 2002. It prohibits smoking in virtually all indoor public places, including restaurants, bars, casinos, bowling alleys, pool halls, racetracks and 75 percent of hotel rooms. Some private venues, such as volunteer fire company halls and fraternal organizations, were exempted in the legislation.

Although this was a very controversial piece of legislation at the time of its passage and still remains contentious among some residents, many Delawareans view the smoking ban as a health issue and a protection of the freedom of those who choose not to smoke. Since the ban passed four years ago, I am still approached by residents in public places who express their thanks because they can now enjoy an evening concert at a smoke-free venue, or they can treat their asthmatic child to a meal at their favorite restaurant. The Clean Indoor Air Act does not deny the ability of smokers to smoke but instead enables employees and customers to breathe air free of a known carcinogen.

Some predicted that the Clean Indoor Air Act would hurt the bottom line of businesses, even forcing some to close. Conversely, there are more restaurants and bars licensed in Delaware now than when the Act went into effect. Delaware's three slot machine casinos have all experienced their highest revenue periods in the last two years.

Scientific evidence proves that the Clean Indoor Air Act has lowered the level of harmful pollutants in indoor air. A study, published in the September 2004 issue of the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, showed a 95 percent reduction of cancer-causing agents in the air of eight restaurants, bars and casinos where air samples were

taken before and after the Act took effect. Before the Act, carcinogen levels inside those locations had been 50 times higher than a highway at rush hour.

More than three years after its implementation, the Clean Indoor Air Act has been a very positive development for Delaware. More importantly, the greatest benefit will be the effect felt by future generations who now have the chance to breathe cleaner air everyday.

Sincerely,

  
Ruth Ann Minner  
Governor