

Crete, Andrea

From: Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 8:46 AM
To: Crete, Andrea; khoag@belchertownps.org
Subject: Legislature's Public Hearing on Nicotine Free Generation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Ware organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

(bcc'd to some recipients)

The legislature's Joint Committee on Public Health will be holding a public hearing on several bills, including implementing a state-wide Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) law next Monday afternoon, July 7th, between 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM. People can testify online (as I will), in person, or by writing to the committee.

In the various towns in which I have testified, most recently in Berkshire County, even nicotine dealers agree that a state-side NFG is better than a patchwork town-by-town. The companion bills we care about are:

-

H2562	An Act to create a nicotine free generation	Vitolo, Tommy (HOU)
S1568	An Act to create a nicotine free generation	Lewis, Jason M. (SEN)

-

I encourage you to participate. Even a three-sentence letter will be read by staff and counts as support. I expect some of our superstar medical people will testify about the medical and public health aspects of NFG, so my own testimony will mostly be about our experience after six months of NFG in Belchertown, and perhaps some of the economic benefits to the community. Obviously, you can say anything you want, but personalizing it is probably best.

Emailed testimony can go to JointCommittee.PublicHealth@malegislature.gov , as well as pre-registration for testifying online (before 5:00 pm this Thursday for pre-registration).

FYI: Cheryl Sbarra sent a memo saying that generally town staff may testify. She wrote, "First, you can all testify in support of this specific bill on your own time and on your own behalf. You DO want to check and make sure that your host municipality does not have a policy with reference to testifying."

-- Ken

PS: I can send you more detailed information about the hearing. I do not expect NFG to pass statewide this year, but this is our first opening to be heard. I notified both Jake and Aaron that I will be speaking.