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Subject: Support for NFG in Hopkinton

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Good morning,

Hopkinton BOH voted to hold a public hearing so all interested parties can weigh in on NFG.

We'll be looking for support from local residents, students, parents, educators, youth serving institutions, health care providers, and others. Tobacco Control advocates will show up to support this important public health policy, but we often get criticized as "outsiders". The criticism comes from tobacco industry reps, who are of course themselves outsiders.

To buffer against that argument, it is helpful to have as many local community members as we can round up. Unfortunately, I am not well connected in Hopkinton. We would appreciate any help you can provide given that Hopkinton falls in your catchment area.

When I was gathering support for communities in my region that were considering NFG, I reached out to the local hospital (which is owned by Tufts Medicine – who was kind enough to give us a letter of support), local high schools (school nurses, guidance counselors, health educators, school adjustment counselors and the like), as well as the local YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, Boy Scouts, and other youth serving organizations. It's great to have local health care professionals- - family practitioners, oncologists, cardiologists, pulmonologists, etc. We were also able to get letters of support from CHA (Cambridge Health Alliance), Winchester/Lahey Hospital, and Emerson Hospital. I have copies of their letters if that helps. I also have contact info for government relations staff in each of the above-mentioned hospitals.

Anything you can do to help will be greatly appreciated.

Please let me know if I can do anything to help you.

Do you have the tool kit released by MTCP? There's a good one-page explanation of NFG as well as an FAQ. We have other materials also.

No date for the hearing has been set yet but we expect it to be sometime in May.

Many thanks in advance for your help.

Best regards,

Maureen

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