

Secondhand smoke is serious pollution  
Allan Meckle - 02/17/2009

Recently, bar and hotel owners have been talking a lot about their right to allow smoking in their businesses. However, this decision does not impact only them. We all pay for the damages done by secondhand smoke. Employees and patrons of these businesses will be at risk for heart attacks and cancer, but we will all pay as health insurance premiums rise and health care costs keep climbing. Each year North Dakotans pay \$250 million in medical costs and lost productivity because of smoking. The truth is that we all have a right to be protected from the air pollution caused by tobacco. Our Legislature should fully support House Bill 1213 to protect our health and our pocketbooks.

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