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Cottage Grove, Minn. -- The city's public safety commission will meet for the final time on 1/9 to consider a tobacco retail proposal to recommend to the council. The commission had decided to give a draft that included a self-service display ban. However, retailers presented some changes to allow displays, which will be considered. The commission is expected to make a final decision on a proposal that will go to the city council for more formal consideration. We recommend calls to retailers to urge their attendance and support for the changes.

Medfield, Mass -- The board of health will hold a public hearing on 1/8 proposed changes to the tobacco control regulations. The changes include a ban on self-service display, a ban on tobacco advertising on public transportation and a ban on vending machines. The smoking regulations would add bars to places where smoking is prohibited. New provisions for smoking areas requiring separate ventilation will apply to bars, museums, libraries, clinics, nursing homes, auditoriums, hotels and even municipal buildings—but not to restaurants. There has been a variance procedure in the regulations all along. Bob Stone requests calls to retailers and smokers to urge them to attend the hearing. We may request calls to restaurant owners just to get them there to protest this unusual ordinance

Hot Springs, AR--The city board of directors voted 6-1 not to adopt the smoking ban ordinance. About 15 people signed up to speak and the speakers were evenly divided pro and con. Several of those opposed were restaurant owners. Some said even though they were nonsmokers, they still wanted to accommodate all their customers. They didn't think the government should tell them what to do. The directors finally said that they voted against it because they didn't support so much government interference in private businesses. Some said they agreed with the idea of no smoking in restaurants, but felt that decision should be left up to the owners to decide. This was a vote on the motion to adopt. Since it failed, that is the end of the issue for now.

International Falls, MN--The city council on 1/13 will hold second and final reading on a compromise plan for retail restrictions on tobacco. It allows self-service displays in line-of-sight of clerk with surveillance cameras monitoring. Requires training of retail clerks and adopts graduated fines up to \$300 for the fourth violations. If a clerk has participated in the retail training program, the retailer can seek relief from fines. Annual compliance checks by the police department required. Vending machines allowed in licensed liquor establishments only. The first ordinance introduced contained a ban on self-service displays. We are requested to do calls that urge retailer to attend the 1/13 meeting and thank the council members for the compromise.

*Tracy -
can we get
a copy of proposed
changes?
Kim
1/8*