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Ventilation Legislation

I. Assumptions

- There is an increasing awareness of the problems of indoor air pollution and poor office ventilation.
- The effort to conserve energy in the mid-1970's by reducing ventilation and tightening insulation of indoor air has contributed to building occupant illnesses.
- Many indoor air components are regulated through OSHA for industrial workplace environments however, there are no standard regulations for the white collar workplace.
- Several jurisdictions and states have taken preliminary steps to address this problem to one degree or another, therefore, eventually, it will be addressed with or without our input.
- Currently, the business community typically does not support this type of legislation.
- There may be substantial costs to owners of older buildings with poor or outdated systems if ventilation standards were imposed.
- Costs to newer building owners may not be substantial if existing ventilation equipment is adequate to meet new standards.
- Organized labor may support this concept as an improvement of working conditions.
- Businesses may be able to support ventilation standards laws if they are already in compliance.
- If it can be demonstrated, as Gray Robertson claims, that reduced absenteeism/increased productivity outweigh the costs of improving ventilation, businesses may be persuaded to support standards laws if costs associated with installation or upgrade of equipment would be minimal.
- Depending on location, the issue may break down to "energy conservation vs. indoor air quality". If this does take place, the issue of energy tax credits will come into play. The suppliers of energy (i.e. coal, oil, hydro, etc.) may also be a factor.
- The argument of "freedom of choice" with regard to workplace smoking is becoming increasingly harder to sell, however the concept of "indoor air quality" - - with an emphasis on science has much more credibility and will draw in a wider audience.
- Most anti-smoking groups will support this type of legislation but not at the expense of existing smoking restrictions.

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II. Objective

-Focus the public's attention on indoor air pollution in the work place and draw attention away from or put less emphasis on the issue of work place smoking.

III. Strategies, Goals and Tactics

Strategy 1: Encourage the adoption of legislation which sets standards for indoor air quality in a jurisdiction where a smoking restriction law exists. Repeal the smoking restriction law as an ineffective way of dealing with indoor air quality problems.

Goals:

A. Within one month of sign-off to proceed, identify list of standards for use in ventilation legislation or as a model (see attached list of standards groups); Within three months select standard(s) and location(s) for action; Within six months identify allies/third parties and brief appropriate groups and individuals and "tailor" the legislation to fit the situation; Within nine months develop and introduce legislation. Passage of legislation within one year. ← possible? desirable?

B. From the list of standards, identify specific levels that would be supported by the broadest possible range of groups. - goal?

Tactics:

1. Contact standards people to determine the answers to the following questions:

- How were standards developed?
- Why were standards developed?
- How should standards be implemented?

2. Identify location for this action (city, county, state) based on established criteria:

- Location would draw national media attention.
- Location may be where a smoking restriction law is about to be passed and the standards proposal could be used as a last minute substitute (i.e. New York).
- Location may be where indoor air quality proposals are already in the legislative process and an effort could be made to repeal an existing smoking restriction (i.e. New Hampshire).
- If state grants and tax breaks for retro-fit of ventilation

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equipment in older buildings are a consideration, states or cities with a budget surplus should be considered as candidates.

-In some situations, local (city, county) ordinances do have an impact on and send a message to the state legislature. In these carefully targeted situations, there would be a double impact as a result of one action.

-Location should be where there would be a minimal negative impact on our traditional allies or where we could build a coalition of new allies.

3. Continue public awareness campaign with regard to the indoor air quality issue through presentations and briefings - - i.e. ACVA. (May include media coverage depending on the situation).

4. Conduct building studies in area where proposal will be introduced.

5. Use the results of the building studies to demonstrate to business and legislators that existing smoking restriction legislation does not improve indoor air quality in the work place.

6. Encourage allies to raise this issue with legislators and each other. These may include but are not limited to:

- Business
- Labor
- State legislators
- City council members
- State and local health departments
- Manufacturing associations
- Environmental groups

- bid case
- WBM I
- idds for
Hrel

(see attached list for some specifics)

7. Identify an engineer who is familiar with the local/state-wide building practices. It would be especially helpful if this individual were a former government official with political connections. This engineer could help us "feel our way" through the process and may also serve as an expert witness.

8. Develop draft legislation for indoor air quality standards with help and input from a wide variety of sources (see attached list).

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9. If appropriate, encourage allies/third party groups to promote "model" legislation/regulations for indoor air quality.

Legislation should include:

- Standards
- Repeal of or exemption from existing smoking restrictions
- Grandfathering provisions, etc. (as the situation warrants)

10. New legislation can be held up as an example for similar types of bills in other parts of the country.

Strategy 2: Promote the adoption of legislation which sets standards for indoor air quality in lieu of smoking restriction laws.

Goals:

A. Show legislators that there are standards out there that should be looked at before smoking restrictions are imposed.

Strategy
can be contrasted

(see goals A and B of Strategy 1)

Tactics: (see all tactics for Strategy 1 with the exception of "repeal of existing" law under number 9.

Standards Groups

audience -
see list -
back
role

- American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)
- American Society of Testing and Materials
- Building Officials and Code Administrators International (BOCA)
- National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS)
- Air Pollution Control Association

Unions

- Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
- International Association of Machinists (IAM)
- United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners
- AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades and Food and Allied Service Trades
- Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union
- Sheet Metal Workers International Association

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Corporations/Association

- International Facility Management Association (IFMA)
- American Institute of Architects
- American Society of Interior Designers
- Building Owners and Managers Association International (BOMA)
- National Association of Corporate Real Estate Executives (NACORE)
- National Association of Realtors
- Institute of Business Designers (IBD)
- Formaldehyde Institute
- Gypsum Association
- Computer and Business Equipment Manufacturers Association
- B.F. Goodrich
- Honeywell
- National Air Filtration Association
- Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute
- American Society for Personnel Administration

Consumer Groups

- Consumer Federation of American
- Environmental Law Institute (ELI)
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- National Chamber Foundation
- National Association of Towns and Townships
- U.S. Conference of Mayors
- U.S. League of Cities
- National Conference of State Legislators
- National Association of Counties
- American Legal Exchange Council

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-State and Territorial Air Pollution Program
Administrators/Association of Local Air Pollution Control
Officials (STAPPA)

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