

Will ASHRAE help Big Tobacco attack indoor air quality?

THE ISSUE: Should hospitality and casino workers and patrons be denied the health protection of smoke-free indoor air quality standards?

Since the 1980s, using paid consultants, lawyers and fronts, Big Tobacco has fiercely fought against ASHRAE ventilation standards based on the findings of cognizant health authorities.

The latest attempt? At ASHRAE's Winter meeting in Atlantic City this January, a full day has been scheduled to consider a "separate IAQ standard for the hospitality industry." Is a separate standard needed? Of course not.

It's simply Big Tobacco's strategy to punch a gaping loophole in standards that should protect all of us — including restaurant, bar and casino workers severely exposed to secondhand smoke, which kills over 53,000 U.S. nonsmokers a year.

ASHRAE's own Code of Ethics declares, "Our efforts shall be directed at all times to the enhancement of the public health, safety and welfare."

Big Tobacco's relentless attempts to undermine ASHRAE Standard 62 (a tobacco industry employee even serves on

the Standard 62 Committee itself) should impel ASHRAE members to ask why their organization's forums are being used to enhance Big Tobacco's bottom-line instead.

ASHRAE or ashtray? Why put your reputation on the line for the tobacco industry?



Big Tobacco swore to Congress that nicotine wasn't addictive and has claimed the hospitality industry will suffer grave economic losses by going smoke-free. Trust them on indoor air quality?

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