



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Boone County withdraws from regional smoke free discussion**

Burlington, KY — The Boone County Fiscal Court issued a statement today after considering the regional smoke free issue. Below is a comment from each member of the court.

Judge/Executive Gary Moore said, "In the process of working on draft ordinances, it is clear there is no support among members of the Fiscal Court to consider this issue in Boone County no matter how it reads. At this time, Boone County is removing itself from the process of a regional smoke free ordinance."

Commissioner Cathy Flaig said, "I do not favor a ban on smoking. It is up to the business owner as to how they want to run their business on this issue. We need to stay out of the lives of private citizens. Government has no right to meddle with this. This is a private property rights issue."

Commissioner Charlie Kenner said, "As a health professional, I understand the dangers of second-hand smoke. Over my years serving on both the Local and District Boards of Health, we have observed an overall decline in smoking. I believe the smoking ban hasn't been properly enforced in other parts of Kentucky and I don't see a need for it in Boone County, especially since the Health Department reports over 70% of restaurants are already non-smoking."

Commissioner Terri Moore said, "I'm not comfortable with passing a smoking ban at this time. I have personally witnessed businesses in Boone County go smoke-free and believe they have experienced an increase in patronage as a result. Because businesses are going smoke-free voluntarily, I will not support a smoking ban."

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