

Smoke-Free Air Law Eighth Anniversary

June 6, 2018

Eight years later and still celebrating a smoke-free Wisconsin

Dear Health and Safety Committee members

Thursday, July 5 marks the eighth anniversary of Wisconsin's smoke-free air law, which means eight years of clean indoor air for employees and customers across Wisconsin.

I am very thankful Wisconsin is smoke-free. As a restaurant owner in the Hispanic Community, I used to allow smoking in our establishment but since this law went into effect our restaurant has been Smoke Free with the inclusion of E- Cigarettes. Now our restaurant is frequented by more customers and their families.

The issue of second hand smoke and leaving this place smelling like an ashtray was not something the families were happy about. Also, second hand smoke could aggravate asthma, and all other respiratory diseases. ***It is estimated that secondhand smoke caused nearly 34,000 heart disease deaths each year. For nonsmokers, breathing secondhand smoke has immediate harmful effects on the heart and blood vessels.***

If you recently traveled to another state that's not smoke-free, you can immediately realize how important it is to continue to maintain our state's smoke free law. "In Wisconsin, you know that you would not encounter any smoky bars or restaurants for which I am Thankful" said Ramon Orozco, owner of Tres Hermanos Restaurant on 1332 W Lincoln Ave, Milwaukee 53215

Although tobacco is still a problem in Wisconsin, we have had an incredible success as far as the business is concern since the state went smoke-free, but it has not magically made tobacco use disappear. Tobacco still affects Wisconsin within the Hispanic community. **Tobacco is the #1 cause of preventable death, tobacco-related disparities, and our youth trying new tobacco products, that the tobacco companies continue to produce**

We've made great strides in our state, but that there's still more work to be done. To find out what the Hispanic Tobacco Prevention Network is doing to address tobacco in Milwaukee, visit the Hispanic Tobacco Prevention Network on Facebook or UMOs org. If you are tobacco users ready to quit you may 1-800-quit now (784-8669) for free help.

Sincerely,

Ramon Ordozco
Owner Tres Hermanos Restarante

