

Dear Business Owner,

On July 23, 2007, Governor Rod Blagojevich signed the Smoke-Free Illinois Act (Public Act 95-0017) into law, prohibiting smoking in all indoor workplaces and public places in Illinois effective January 1, 2008. This new law is comprehensive in scope, and includes all restaurants, bars, private clubs, and gaming venues in Illinois. We are writing to inform you of the new requirements associated with this law and to provide assistance in compliance.

**Beginning January 1, 2008, smoking is completely prohibited indoors at all places of employment.** This includes, but is not limited to: offices and work areas; restrooms; conference and classrooms; break rooms and cafeterias; and other common areas. In addition, smoking is further prohibited within 15 feet of all entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes that service an enclosed area where smoking is prohibited.

All restaurants, bars, taverns, gaming facilities, and private/membership clubs in Illinois are covered by this law.

**Enclosed with this letter** is a packet of materials designed to answer any additional questions you may have, and resources, which we encourage you to use to ease the transition of your business as this new law takes effect on January 1, 2008. The packet includes two "No Smoking" window decals that meet the signage requirements established by the Act.

The required steps for compliance are not difficult, but your active participation is required to avoid potential violations. We wanted to assist the state in implementing this law, so we have prepared the attached materials. You will not likely receive information like this in the mail from the state, so please use these materials to prepare your business for this law.

**Finally, as a result of the statewide smoke-free law, many smokers will be encouraged to quit.** As an employer you are in the position to assist your employees who want to stop smoking. The state operates a statewide toll-free quitline – **1-866-QUIT YES**. In addition, you can contact your local health department or one of our public health partners.

Thank you for your voluntary compliance with the law, and for providing a safer, smoke-free environment for your employees and patrons.

