Common Cigarette Tax Arguments You May Hear

- Iowa does not need a cigarette tax!

  o 4,500 adult Iowans die each year from smoking – shouldn't we be concerned with saving lives.

  o The smoking-caused costs in Iowa per taxed pack sold are $8.04; yet, the average price per pack sold in our state is $3.50 – less than half.

  o With a $1 increase, 20,200 adult smokers would quit.

  o With a $1 increase, 38,600 youth will be prevented from a lifetime addiction to cigarettes.

  o Iowans are paying $602 dollars per household annually in state and federal taxes due to smoking.

- My state would lose a lot of revenue!

  o Every state that increased its tobacco tax has enjoyed substantial increases to state revenues, despite the fact that cigarette tax increases reduce state smoking levels and despite any related increases in cigarette smuggling or cigarette tax avoidance.

  o Iowa is 8th from the bottom in its current cigarette tax.

  o SD just increased its tax by $1.00; MN recently increased their tax by 75 cents; WI is running a $1 tax campaign this year; IL is looking at a 75-cent proposal. Iowa would still be at the bottom of the pack should any one of them be successful.

  o Cross border purchases and cigarette smuggling account for less than 1% of all cigarette sales.

  o As an Iowan, I am not proud to be a seller of cheap tobacco.

- This will hurt my lower income constituents.

  o You will hurt them by not protecting them from the harm that smoking causes.

  o Lower income communities suffer disproportionately from smoking-related disease, disability, and death and health care costs.

  o The tobacco industry spends $192.1 million each year in our state marketing their deadly products; Iowa spends a mere $5 million to reduce and prevent tobacco use.

  o If you are really concerned about the lower income, reduce tobacco use by voting yes to a $1 increase and prevent the addiction by increasing funding to CDC minimum levels – just a dime of that dollar would get us there.