

Sadly, a recent ban on smoking tobacco in the city of Calabasas, California in all public venues was passed into legislation. My goal is to defend the civil rights of smokers by analyzing the views of the anti-smoker activists and hypocrisy anti-smoker movement so that maybe the law will be corrected and not spread anywhere else.

It is important to fully understand what the recent ban refers to. The law is not against tobacco, it is against smoke, which just so happens to be the most popular form of enjoying tobacco. People are still free to spit moist tobacco or snuff onto plants and sidewalks in public. As long as tobacco can be used without emitting smoke, it is allowed. Are the activists against smoke in general or those who create smoke? Logically the answer is neither: one can't get mad about smoke in general because of all the natural and industrial forces which cause it and on the other hand, they will go after whoever they can target as the bad-guy as they will let other members of society create smoke at will and conjure up laws against those who smoke tobacco. Under that theory, they just don't like people that smoke, but why? Smoke is perceived to be hazardous to health and to the environment and under constant exposure it might be, however in properly ventilated areas, outdoors being the best example: tobacco smokers do not pose any danger because of the limited amount of smoke per person and quick dissipation.

Banning the act of smoking is filled with hypocrisy. Other forms of smoke pollute the air each day that are not unlawful, such as emissions from cars or smoke from a barbeque pit at any given stadium's weekly tailgate party. Should there be legislation passed which mandates carpooling or penalizes low gas mileage vehicles? Police could stop individuals driving on a Saturday afternoon and cite unnecessary enjoyment. Barbeque pits give off excessive amounts of smoke, but welcomed at collegiate and professional football stadiums across the nation. What does one do if they don't want to walk through the smoky tailgate area? They walk around it and avoid the smoke or quickly walk through it and get through the tragic experience. Why is this practice not possible at a public park? Can people not walk around smokers or walk through the smoke quickly? The public park is operated by the city but paid for by taxpayers. If I lived in a town such as Calabasas and my taxes helped pay the park's expenses and wasn't allowed to enjoy a great cigar there, anger would be an understatement. Tobacco smokers of any form have been the black sheep of society. They have been kicked out of bars and other establishments. Since recent legislation in that town has taken parks, patios, cars and sidewalks away, the only place left to enjoy smoke is at home.

Cigars, cigarettes and pipe tobacco are all legal products in the United States which are being restricted almost completely by the town of Calabasas, California. Under the current legislation, smoking is not allowed anywhere public. The only area one may smoke tobacco is at their home, inside is safe and outside may not be for long. By smoking in my backyard, maybe the anti-smoker activists think the smoke will stay in my property and not spread into the air like it does anywhere else, but they're misinformed. It will dissipate and humanity will survive. Calabasas is taking an undeserved stab at the civil rights of all smokers in its city limits. God save the smokers.