

Frontiers

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“Maybe we should also ban soda and junk food. Is it all OK in the name of healthy living?”

—Daniel Miyamoto, Seattle



Where there's smoke...

Editor's note: *As part of the company's ongoing efforts to ensure a healthful workplace, Boeing will begin implementing a tobacco-free policy in 2008. Implementation will be phased in over the next few years, beginning with all U.S.-based operations. Below are comments from employees about the policy.*

I think it is a mistake to implement this policy. I do not use tobacco products and have never used them. It is a personal choice to use tobacco, not the choice of my employer. Smoking is already limited to designated outdoor areas at my workplace. I think the current policy is fair to both smokers and nonsmokers. Those who wish to quit using tobacco have programs offered to them by Boeing.

But most importantly, I feel it is an insult to Boeing employees as a whole—those who

use tobacco, and those who do not. It is my legal choice to use tobacco, and my choice to take on any health risks.

If it is OK to ban tobacco, maybe it's all right to ban motorcycles and convertible cars; they are risky too. Maybe we should also ban soda and junk food. Is it all OK in the name of safety and healthy living?

—Daniel Miyamoto
 Seattle

The policy is a total disrespect for approximately 20 percent of the work force. It's unfortunately not about tobacco, it's obviously about money in the form of insurance and other company expenses. And I'm sure your cross-organizational team (that is exploring the issue to assess the impacts as decisions are made) will consist of unbiased non-smokers. Right! When all toxins and fumes from vehicles such as trucks, vans, forklifts and cars are gone, then you can use health issues as your criteria for the ban.

—Chris Lincecum
 Everett, Wash.

I am thrilled to hear this news, though I'm disappointed that my site in Huntington Beach, Calif., isn't up for implementation in 2008. My biggest reason? The environment. No matter how many Earth Days or California Coastal Cleanup Days we see, many smokers at my site never think twice about leaving a cigarette butt in the parking lot or on the ground next to an ash can—which is

appalling given our proximity to both the beach and the Bolsa Chica Wetlands.

There are days when I have picked up as many as 100 filters during the brief walk from my car in the parking lot to the building in which I work. To me, this is unacceptable. Health concerns are private, but the ocean belongs to everyone, and I would like to see Boeing's employees behaving more responsibly where our relationship with the environment is concerned.

—Brandy Gaunt
 Huntington Beach, Calif.

Thank you for the tobacco-free policy. If people are unable to quit tobacco, it's nice to see they will help.

I have two parents who smoked and no longer can do so because of health problems. I brought up the new policy with my mom, who smoked for 25 years. I thought she would be on the side of the smokers. But she said, "I wish someone would have stopped me."

—Karen Davis
 Philadelphia

Corrections

- The wrong month was stated in the December 2007/January 2008 issue's list of retired employees on Page 49. These employees retired in October.
- The authors of the story "Still going strong after 65 years" on Page 10 of the December 2007/January 2008 issue were misidentified. They are Robin McBride and Brenda Pittsley (robin.m.mcbride@boeing.com and brenda.pittsley@boeing.com).
- The caption on Page 26 of the December 2007/January 2008 issue misstates the type of glider shown. The glider is a Smyk PW5 glider.

Letters guidelines

Boeing Frontiers provides its letters page for readers to state their opinions. The page is intended to encourage an exchange of ideas and information that stimulates dialogue on issues or events in the company or the aerospace industry.

The opinions may not necessarily reflect those of The Boeing Company. Letters must include name, organization and a telephone number for verification purposes. Letters may be edited for grammar, syntax and size.