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June 14, 2017

**To:** Ms. Fumiko Hayashi  
Mayor, Yokohama  
1-1 Minato-cho, Naka-ku  
Yokohama 231-0017 JAPAN

**From:** International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC)

**Re:** Petition for Guidelines against Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Indoor Public Locations prior to the commencement of the Annual Meeting of the IASLC in Yokohama

The International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) looks forward to our annual meeting which will bring approximately 8,000 visitors to your beautiful city in October 2017.

IASLC's primary mission to promote education intended to support actions that lead to a reduction in deaths from lung cancer. Given the well-established relationship between smoking and lung cancer, we are pleased to recognize that Japan was one of the first countries in the world to ratify the WHO's Framework Convention for Tobacco Control in 2004. This first ever health treating requires ratifying nations to implement measures to reduce cigarette use in their population. Since 2004, Japan has made significant progress in reducing cigarette smoking rates; however, the national government has not yet enacted a comprehensive clean indoor air policy as required by the treaty.

Thus, IASLC was pleased to hear that the national government was looking to strengthen the protection against exposure to secondhand smoke in indoor public places. It is well established scientifically that indoor smoking is a cause of serious health problems in nonsmokers and that implementation of comprehensive smoke-free policies results in fewer hospital admissions for respiratory diseases and heart attacks. However, we are concerned that action on this bill has been delayed and that common sense rules prohibiting indoor smoking in restaurants and other venues in your City may not be in place when we arrive for our conference in October.

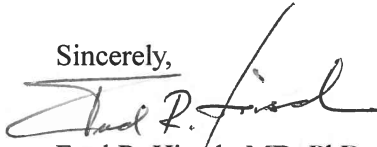
We are reaching out to you now in hopes that you and other City leaders might be willing to take action to encourage businesses in your City to adopt a smoke-free policy during the week of our conference. We recognize that given the late date, passing a formal law would likely be impossible to accomplish. However, IASLC is hoping that with your support the City would be willing to reach out to local businesses to encourage them to voluntarily implement a smoke-free policy during the week of our conference. Such an effort would represent an important symbolic action and perhaps advance efforts for the future adoption of a formal smoke-free policy. The main opposition to adopting a smoke-free policy seems to be centered around concerns of adverse economic effects on bars and

restaurants. We can assure you that there are many credible studies that have been conducted across diverse locations that have shown that such concerns are misplaced and businesses often find that they do better after the policy is adopted. Also because smoke-free policies are self-enforcing they do not create a huge administrative burden on local governments. The provision of signage to business is usually all that is required.

IASLC would be happy to provide you with information to support your efforts to adopt a smoke-free policy not only for our meeting in October, but more importantly for your citizens after the meeting is concluded. IASLC is looking forward to coming to your lovely City and working with you and others to promote strategies that improve the health and well-being of your citizens and those who visit your City.

We look forward to hearing your response to our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred R. Hirsch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Fred R. Hirsch, MD, PhD  
CEO, IASLC