Earth Day/Tobacco-Free Parks LTE Template

Drafted March 8, 2018

**Honor Earth Day by making (COMMUNITY NAME’S) parks tobacco free**

Dear Editor,

START YOUR LETTER BY SHARING THAT SUNDAY, APRIL 22 IS EARTH DAY, A DAY TO STAND UP FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT AND COMMIT TO TAKING BETTER CARE OF OUR RESOURCES. NOW SHARE THAT ONE WAY WE CAN DO OUR PART IN **(COMMUNITY NAME)** IS BY MAKING OUR PARKS TOBACCO FREE.

SHARE WHAT YOU LOVE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY’S PARKS IN PARTICULAR. SHARE A FEW ACTIVITIES THAT YOU LIKE TO ENJOY **(HIKING, BIKE RIDING, CAMPING, TAKING YOUR KIDS/GRANDKIDS TO THE PARK TO PLAY, ETC.)**. NOW SHARE HOW THAT ENJOYMENT IS HAMPERED BY OTHER PEOPLE’S TOBACCO USE **(THINGS YOU COULD COVER INCLUDE EXCESSIVE LITTERING, SECONDHAND SMOKE EXPOSURE, WATER POLLUTION, ETC.)**. IF YOU CAN, GIVE A SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF SOMETHING YOU’VE SEEN FIRSTHAND.

NOW SHARE A FEW WAYS THAT TOBACCO HARMS THE ENVIRONMENT. YOU CAN FIND A FEW THINGS TO SHARE AT <https://truthinitiative.org/news/5-ways-cigarette-litter-impacts-environment>.

CONNECT THIS TO YOUR NETWORK OR COALITION BY DISCUSSING YOUR WORK IN THIS AREA. SHARE WHAT YOU ARE DOING TO HELP MAKE **(COMMUNITY’S NAME)** TOBACCO FREE **(MEETING WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS, RAISING COMMUNITY AWARENESS, ETC.)**.

CLOSE YOUR LETTER BY INVITING OTHERS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR GROUP BY VISITING YOUR WEBSITE OR SOCIAL MEDIA. INCLUDE A REMINDER TO TOBACCO USERS THAT FREE HELP TO QUIT IS AVAILABLE BY CALLING THE WISCONSIN TOBACCO QUIT LINE AT 1-800-QUIT NOW.