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FOR RELEASE

**Workers and Patrons in Paducah Are Breathing Easier
Thanks to the Paducah Board of Commissioners**

*Wednesday, January 20, 2010
Paducah, KY*

On April 1, 2007, the Paducah Board of Commissioners implemented a smoke-free public places ordinance in Paducah. A report released today by the Kentucky Center for Smoke-free Policy shows that as a result of compliance with Paducah's smoke-free law that covers all workplaces and places open to the public, the indoor air quality in Paducah public venues has improved by 89 %. Workers in public venues are now being protected from the dangerous levels of secondhand smoke before the ordinance was enacted.

Indoor air quality was assessed in 9 businesses before and after implementation of a smoke-free law. The most recent study showed the level of indoor air pollution fell well below the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for *outdoor* air for the first time since testing began.

Secondhand smoke is a mixture of the smoke from the burning end of tobacco products (side stream smoke) and the smoke exhaled by smokers (mainstream smoke) and is known to cause heart disease and cancer in humans. According to the Surgeon General's 2006 report, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposures to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*, there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Exposure to secondhand smoke, which contains 250 known toxins, is the third leading cause of preventable deaths in the U.S.

This study demonstrates that comprehensive smoke-free laws significantly reduce indoor air pollution and protect workers and the public.

As of October 1, 2009, 24 Kentucky communities had enacted smoke-free laws or regulations. Fourteen have implemented comprehensive policies

requiring all workplaces and indoor public places to be smoke-free. Three have implemented smoke-free indoor public places, and seven have partial policies covering only some workplaces and public places.

The study was conducted by a team comprised of coalition members from the Clean Air McCracken Coalition and researchers from the University of Kentucky College of Nursing. The study was funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Kentucky Department of Public Health, and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

For more information on the study, contact Monica Warren at 859-323-2353 or monica.warren@uky.edu.

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Clean Indoor Air Project

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