December 23, 2007

Dear Mr. Knollenberg,

I am working on my Citizenship in the Nation merit badge in Boy Scouts so I can get Eagle and one of the requirements is to write a letter about a national issue to an elected official in our state. The issue I have chosen to write about is smoking in restaurants. I feel that if there was no smoking in places where they serve food, more people would be able to enjoy it because the majority of people don't smoke. It also is less than enjoyable to walk through smoke on your way to your table.

Also, a lot of people will breathe in second hand smoke if the air vents circulate around the building, which makes it unhealthy for everyone, not just the people who choose to smoke. It is also unhealthy for the waiters and waitresses who have to serve in the smoking sections because they are always breathing in the smoke.

People with breathing problems or small children don't get the chance to go out much to restaurants sometimes because of this issue. I also go to Florida frequently where they have no smoking in all places that serve food and they say they now have more business in their restaurants. The people that smoke could get a carry out if they wanted to smoke or they could just not smoke in the restaurant. I hope that sometime soon we can pass the law to ban smoking to make it better for everyone.

Thank you for listening,

Jonathan Elias, Grade 8
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