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**AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION IN OREGON AND LOCAL
SMOKEFREE HOUSING PROJECT RELEASE
2009 SMOKEFREE RENTAL HOUSING REPORT**

*Study Shows 29% Increase in Availability of Smoke-free Apartments in
Greater Portland Area*

Portland, Ore. – Sept. 24, 2009 – According to the [American Lung Association in Oregon \(ALAO\)](#), the 2009 Smoke-free Rental Housing Report shows that nine out of 10 renters in the greater Portland, Ore., region live in homes that are virtually smokefree. Additionally, 22 percent of renters reported that their landlords now prohibit smoking inside their living space, compared to 17 percent in the 2006 benchmark survey. These numbers illustrate a 29 percent increase (approximately 13,000 rental units) in the overall availability of smoke-free apartments in the greater Portland area since 2006.

The survey, which was commissioned by the ALAO and the [Portland-Vancouver Metro Area Smokefree Housing Project](#), is the counterpart to a baseline survey completed in 2006. It was conducted by Campbell DeLong Resources Inc. (Campbell) and surveyed a random sample of 300 renters in Oregon's Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties, as well as Washington State's Clark County.

“We are excited to see such dramatic improvements in the availability of smokefree rental properties and to have proof that smoke-free housing efforts in the Portland/Vancouver area are working,” said Colleen Hermann-Franzen, smokefree housing manager for the ALAO. “The goal of the Portland-Vancouver Metro Area Smokefree Housing Project is to protect more renters from secondhand smoke by increasing the number of properties with smokefree policies. This year’s study shows that we’re making progress, yet still have a long way to go.”

According to ALAO, secondhand smoke causes an estimated 800 deaths a year in Oregon and has been found to increase the risk of heart disease among nonsmokers by as much as 60 percent

“Secondhand smoke is a tremendous problem in multi-unit housing environments, as it cannot be controlled. Air ducts and other ventilation systems, even windows and doors, allow smoke to infiltrate other units, putting all renters at risk,” said Hermann-Franzen. “The only way to protect residents from secondhand smoke is to eliminate it from the premises.”

According to John Campbell, director of training, planning & assessment at Campbell, “The 2009 findings show that there has been a substantive increase in the percentage of rental units that are covered by a nonsmoking policy. Today, renters are less likely to experience secondhand smoke in rental housing and are more likely to find rental housing featuring smokefree rules than they were three years ago. This is the change in the market that smokefree housing efforts were designed to bring about, and the research confirms that the change has begun.”

Key 2009 Smoke-free Rental Housing Report Findings:

- **Fewer renters are exposed to secondhand smoke:** Renters are less likely to experience secondhand smoke in rental housing today than they were three years ago and more likely to find rental housing offering a smokefree environment.
 - 76 percent of renters say they rarely or never experience secondhand smoke in their homes, compared to 70 percent in 2006.
- **Renters prefer smokefree housing:** Similar to the 2006 findings, three-quarters of all metro-area renters prefer a smokefree environment, all else being equal.
 - Additionally, half of renters would choose a rental community with a no-smoking rule, even if they had to pay a little extra rent or compromise on things like location.
- **Majority of renters don't smoke in their homes:** Nearly 9 out of 10 renters live in homes that are virtually smokefree, where the frequency of anyone smoking is described as “rarely” or “never”.
- **Renters report discomfort with living next to a smoker:** Compared to 42 percent of renters in 2006 who said they were uncomfortable with the idea of living next to someone who smokes, 46 percent of renters in 2009 said they would be uncomfortable with this idea.
- **Smokefree preferences hold true across income levels:** This holds true for those who have household incomes of less than \$35,000 per year; this group was just as likely to reject the idea of living next door to tenants who smoke as renters of higher incomes.

The complete 2009 Smoke-free Rental Housing Report is available online at:
www.smokefreehousingNW.com under the “What’s New” section.

2009 Smokefree Housing Celebration and Champion Awards:

ALAO and the Portland-Vancouver Metro Area Smokefree Housing Project work in collaboration with multi-unit housing owners and property managers throughout the Portland/Vancouver area to develop and implement smokefree housing policies as seamlessly as possible. Each year the coalition recognizes property management companies and

individuals who have played a critical role in increasing the availability of smoke-free housing through its Smokefree Housing Celebration and Champion Awards.

This year's Smokefree Housing Celebration and Champion Awards were held on Sept. 23. The Housing Authority of Portland and Vancouver Housing Authority were awarded Property Management Company of the Year for their respective states, Kate Stoller of Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue was honored as the leading individual advocate, and Reach CDC received the coalition's community-based organization award for leadership in moving smokefree housing policies forward.

About Smokefree Housing Project

The Portland, Ore., and Vancouver, Wash., Metro Area Smokefree Housing Project offers smoke-free housing resources to landlords and tenants in a four-county area. The project is led by ALAO and the health departments of Clark County, Wash., and Oregon's Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties. Additional information about smoke-free policies is available at: www.smokefreehousingNW.com.

About the American Lung Association in Oregon (ALAO)

[The American Lung Association in Oregon \(ALAO\)](http://www.lungoregon.org) is the oldest national, voluntary public health nonprofit organization in Oregon. Headquartered in Portland, Ore., the organization's mission is to prevent lung disease and promote lung health throughout the state. ALAO's core program focuses are asthma, clean air, tobacco prevention and lung disease. ALAO uses public education and research, and encourages policy change, to decrease the effects of lung disease in the state. The nonprofit is funded by grants and public donations and is a certified State of Oregon 501(c)(3). More information is available online at: www.lungoregon.org.

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