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Greetings,

My name is Tiffany and I am the Lung Health Coordinator at the American Lung Association in Oregon. I am writing to encourage you to promote the American Lung Association's "Be Tobacco Free" Poster Contest to the third through fifth graders in your community. I have included in this packet the poster contest guidelines and registration form.

The purpose of this contest is to reach out to youth in Oregon and raise awareness about tobacco use. It is extremely important to the American Lung Association in Oregon to involve youth in tobacco prevention activities. According to the Surgeon General's 2012 Report, *Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults*, "Every day, more than 1,200 people in this country die due to smoking. For each of those deaths, at least two youth or young adults become regular smokers each day. Almost 90% of those replacement smokers smoke their first cigarette by age 18."

Please consider sharing this poster contest with your 3rd through 5th graders. Students are able to create an original poster that portrays a clear and positive tobacco-free message. Our goal of this poster contest is for youth to express, through art, what being tobacco-free means to them.

We are looking forward to seeing what the youth in your community create. There are amazing prizes for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. The prizes for the 1st and 2nd contest winners also include money for the school to be spent on tobacco prevention materials. Each poster entry will need to accompany a registration form in which a school staff member, parent and student needs to sign.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration of promoting this youth tobacco prevention activity.

Please contact me if you have any questions. My phone number is 503-718-6141 or you can reach me through email at tbelser@lungoregon.org.

Have a wonderful day!

Sincerely,

Tiffany Belser
Lung Health Coordinator
American Lung Association in Oregon