



Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Board of Directors resolution: “Support policies to remove barriers to healthy foods and active transportation”

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust has a constitutional mandate to support strategies and programs designed to maintain or improve the health of Oklahomans, with particular emphasis on such programs for children and senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust also has a constitutional mandate to support efforts designed to improve the health and quality of life of all Oklahomans; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust consistently invests in comprehensive approaches to preventing and reducing the leading causes of death in Oklahoma – cancer and cardiovascular disease – by reducing risk factors of tobacco use, poor nutrition and sedentary lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of Oklahoma’s population lives in a food desert, where access to affordable and nutritious foods is limited, the TSET Board of Directors supports local data gathering efforts to promote and improve access to healthy food that identify assets, barriers and proposed solutions to include the development of local food policy councils or healthy retail food taskforces to address barriers and local resolutions in support of healthy food retail; and

WHEREAS, local community solutions are supported and sustainable, the TSET Board of Directors also supports the development and expansion of community and school gardens, formalizing and expanding farmer’s markets and ensuring benefits and other food voucher programs are accepted; and

WHEREAS, sedentary lifestyles and lack of regular physical activity can increase the risk of disease and poor health, and more than 80 percent of Oklahoma adults and roughly 70 percent of Oklahoma youth do not meet recommended levels of physical activity, the TSET Board of Directors supports programs and strategies to make active transportation and physical activity

easier and safer through passage of complete street resolutions, creation of bike lanes and efforts to support increased opportunities or physical activity.

WHEREAS, complete streets and Safe Routes to School initiatives also support community connectivity and increase safety for bicyclists, Oklahomans with disabilities and Oklahomans of all ages, including children and older adults.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust commends state, community and school efforts to support increased access to affordable and nutritious foods, and support safe and active transportation efforts to improve the quality of life for Oklahomans, enhance local communities and support healthy behaviors to reduce preventable disease, obesity, disability and death.

THE TSET BOARD OF DIRECTORS hereby calls upon other interested groups and governing bodies to adopt similar resolutions.