MIT ignores ASH protests

By Tom Binney

The MIT committee of inquiry on Smoking and Health, commonly known as ASH, has received a letter from three taxpayers at MIT in protest against the decisions of the Harvard Research Committee on Rules for Smoking and Health. The Harvard committee has ruled that the university is not required to exempt certain areas of the campus from the university's no-smoking policy.

In their letter to the committee, the MIT taxpayers state that they believe the decision was made without proper consideration of the implications for the campus community. They argue that the university's decision to exempt certain areas from the smoking ban is inconsistent with the university's stated commitment to public health and community well-being.

The letter goes on to say that the decision will have significant consequences for the campus, including increased exposure to secondhand smoke and reduced access to clean air. The taxpayers believe that the university should have consulted with the public, including students, faculty, and staff, before making such a decision.

The Harvard committee has stated that it made its decision based on the evidence presented to it and that it believes its decision is consistent with the best available scientific information. The committee has also stated that it will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments as needed.

In conclusion, the taxpayers urge the Harvard committee to reconsider its decision and to take steps to ensure that the campus is a healthy and safe environment for all.

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MIT Professor Donald S. Blank first proposed a study of the impacts of university activities on the Cambridge community. The study was conducted in collaboration with the Cambridge Board of Assessors and the Cambridge Community Relations Committee. The study found that MIT's activities had a significant impact on the community, both positive and negative.

In response to the study's findings, MIT began to make changes in its policies and practices. These changes included more active participation by MIT officials in community affairs, as well as increased efforts to communicate with and listen to community concerns.

The study's impact was felt throughout the MIT community, with many members expressing pride in the university's role as a contributor to the wider community. The study also helped to set the stage for future collaborations between MIT and the Cambridge community.