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| **From:** | Phillip Gardiner |
| **To:** | Grp. City Council and City Web Site |
| **Cc:** | Annie Tegen; John Firehammer; Carol McGruder; Dr. Val; Mayor Staff; Phillip Gardiner |
| **Subject:** | No Menthol Exemptions! |
| **Date:** | Friday, October 23, 2020 5:53:49 PM |

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Council,

The African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council sent you a letter on the 15th strongly encouraging you to prohibit the sale of menthol and all flavored tobacco products in Missoula. We are aware that the Council plans to take a vote on this on Monday. Some people have suggested that the Council should only deal with e-cigarette flavors. This would be a big mistake; this isn't just about some flavors, but about all flavors. Let's be clear, menthol helps the poison to go down easier!

Menthol:

1. Masks the harsh taste of tobacco
2. Is an anesthetic
3 Allows for deeper inhalant
4. Deeper inhalation leads to the ingestion of greater amounts of toxins and nicotine
5. The more toxins and nicotine you ingest, the more addicted you become
6. The more addicted you become the harder it is to quit.

Please put the health of your residents above the interests of the tobacco industry. In the midst of the COVID19 pandemic, we need strong health measures in place, not partial steps, but full steps.

And also, please decriminalize the use of commercial tobacco. No more arrests for use, possession or purchase; the prohibition is aimed at retailers not their clerks, not your kids, and not your young adults.

Thank you for letting me speak with you last Monday (even though it took me 3 times to get it right!) And thank you for considering this email in your deliberations this weekend and your vote on Monday.

Best Regards,

Phillip Gardiner, Dr. P.H.
Co-Chair African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council