From:	Beth Morrison
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject:	Missoula Proposed All Flavored Tobacco Products Ban
Date:	Monday, October 26, 2020 10:35:20 AM

Dear Missoula City Council Members,

My name is Beth Morrison, I work for Montana's Alliance for Youth and I'm a volunteer with Parents Against Vaping here in Montana. I support the ordinance restricting the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including all flavored e-cigarettes and menthol cigarettes.

Montana communities need to take action because our state and federal government haven't stepped up to protect kids from being targeted with these addictive and dangerous products. I've seen first-hand through my work, the devastation that youth vaping and the use of other flavored tobacco products has had on both young people and their families.

Comprehensive, local policies are needed to stop the long-time practice by the tobacco industry of using flavors to hook kids on nicotine. In addition to vaping products, Big tobacco has used flavored chew, cigarillos and other products for many years as a way to hook teens. And they've made billions of dollars by doing so.

• Flavored tobacco products, including nearly all vapes, contains enormous amounts of nicotine.
• Nicotine exposure during adolescence harms the part of the brain that controls attention, learning, mood and impulse control. Nicotine, in any form, is unsafe for youth.
• Nicotine is highly addictive and can prime the brain for addiction to other drugs in the future.
• In addition to nicotine addiction, youth who use tobacco are subject to other serious health risks.
• Cigar smoking puts a user at risk for lung and esophageal cancer or increased risk of heart disease.
• Smokeless tobacco use may increase the risk of cancer of the mouth, esophagus, and pancreas.
• Cigarette smoking by children can increase the number and severity of respiratory illnesses and have negative effects on developing lungs' growth and function.
• Research shows that kids who use e-cigarettes are four times more likely to become cigarette smokers, and the CDC states the surge in e-cigarettes has erased past progress in reducing youth tobacco use.

I applaud City Council members for supporting the restriction of all flavored tobacco products. It will help reduce youth initiation into tobacco use and protect kids from nicotine addiction and serious illness and the risk of premature death as they get older.

Thank you,

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"Are we busy or are we effective?" ---Stephen Covey