From:	Cutler, Dr. Pamela
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site; Mayor Staff
Subject:	Flavored Tobacco ordinance
Date:	Monday, October 26, 2020 5:30:23 PM
Attachments:	image001.png

Mr. Mayor and members of the Missoula City Council,

I represent a very large number of physicians in our community as President of the Western Montana Clinic and as President of the Montana Medical Association. I want to encourage you to take actions to decrease the use of tobacco in our community and particularly emphasize how important it is to take strong actions that decrease tobacco use among youth.

As we acutely know from COVID, public health initiatives need to be multifactorial, and when protecting kids from things we know are bad for them, we need to be clear and decisive. That is why I am asking you to prohibit the sale of smokeless tobacco, menthol and all flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-juices, and the broad spectrum of dangerous addictive products to come. Please make these products less accessible.

A very narrow focus of local businesses will be affected by the ordinance you are considering, but they will all survive. However - the risk for a very large percentage of our youth is real, and you will lower that risk by taking a strong stance.

I sincerely thank you for your proactive work on this.

Pam Cutler

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"As you discuss this ordinance, please make sure it includes ALL products, ALL flavors and ALL locations. Not doing so will allow the tobacco industry to continue targeting vulnerable people - such as children, people of color, people with low-incomes and the LGBTQ community - with dangerous and addictive products. Please do the right thing and end the flavor trap, which includes not just e-cigarettes and vape, but menthol products, smokeless tobacco, cigarillos and whatever the industry creates next."