From: Stenger, Robert
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site; Mayor Staff
Subject: Flavored Tobacco Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 12:42:05 PM

Dear City Council Members-
I have a conflict and am not able to attend your final consideration of the flavored tobacco ordinance this afternoon. On behalf of the Missoula City-County Board of Health, I strongly encourage you to pass the ordinance as originally written to include a ban on the sale of **all** flavored tobacco and nicotine containing products, without exception.
From a public health standpoint, the right choice here is clear. While vaping has been the trendy choice among our young people in recent years, we know that any available flavored tobacco products will drive youth initiation and continued use, leading to another generation struggling with lifelong nicotine addiction. If flavored vaping products are banned, many kids will use other flavored products instead. The tobacco industry has, over decades, demonstrated their skill at getting new and existing users to switch to different products when one product becomes more highly regulated. We know that universal flavor bans by local jurisdictions in other states have been an effective tool to curb the alarming epidemic of youth tobacco use.
Please do the right thing and stand with your local health experts in adopting a ban of all flavored products.

Rob Stenger, MD, MPH
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