From:	Adriane Bashaw
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject:	Flavored Tobacco Ban
Date:	Thursday, October 8, 2020 9:26:02 AM

Hello,

I am writing to ask you to please not put this ban into effect.

I smoked for nearly twenty years, 2 packs a day....and I was able to quit smoking thanks to a vape which I still use to this day. My husband was also a smoker who has also quit thanks to his vape. I have been on a vape for 4 years and the only time I went back to cigarettes was when you pushed through the first ban last year. I couldn't get my juice anymore and went right back to cigarettes....I am still struggling to stay off them now even though I have my vape juice once more. If you ban these flavored juices you will be making people like me and my husband go back to cigarettes instead of allowing our freedom of choice.

As well as punishing law abiding citizens, you will be killing businesses as well. Many small businesses have popped up thanks to this industry and you will put an end to them with this ban. We don't want just vape juice, we want the flavored ones. You *will* cripple their ability to continue doing business and we will not forget that. We need jobs now more than ever, we need small local businesses more than ever.

I know there is some concern about kids using vapes and I assume some of you have children. Ask any of the youths about how effective your last ban was. I asked my 15 year old nephew if kids stopped using vapes during that and he laughed, literally snickered and said "no". I asked him where they were getting the vapes and he said they just buy them online like always. Local businesses were never where these kids were getting their vapes....its always been online. You are going to punish Montanas and local businesses because kids are buying things online? This action will do nothing at all to stop kids from purchasing vapes and flavored juices online. Not a single thing.

You are overstepping your authority to put in place this ban. You need to address this supposed "crisis" by addressing the parents of the kids who are breaking the law, not the law abiding adults. Punish the people actually responsible. If parents cannot control their children then perhaps you need to suggest parenting classes or provide them with some research done by people over the last 40 years about what the cigarette companies did to lower teen smoking rates.

I hear your concern about vapes and kids but what I don't hear is your concern about kids and drinking. Montana has a disgusting level of alcohol abuse in both adults and kids....kids dying in drunk driving accidents, dying from alcohol poisoning, damaging their bodies from overuse and yet you do nothing to ban the sale of flavored alcohol.

Why one and not the other if you concern is safety?

Your job is not to limit what free and law abiding Missoulians can do. Your job is not to destroy businesses.