From:	AFP@ivolunteers.com on behalf of Mariah Balentine
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject:	Don"t vote for a flavor ban!
Date:	Saturday, October 24, 2020 11:46:51 AM

Dear Council Member:

I'm writing to urge you to protect small business owners in Missoula who own and operate vape shops from the potential "flavor ban" you and your colleagues are currently considering.

In 2018, small business vape shops directly employed 313 people, paid nearly $9.4 million in wages, and generated $20 million in economic activity for the state of Montana.

We know that you don't want to see Montanans hurting more than we already are from the Covid crisis, so here is what you should know about e-liquids:

- More than 85% of open-system e-liquids are flavored in some way. The e-liquids you're looking to bar are not the same as what the FDA recently banned.
- Only consumers over the age of 21 can purchase e-liquids and typically only in vape stores, which have age limits for entry.

The bottom line is: banning flavored e-liquids would undoubtedly force small businesses to close and lead to lost sales, jobs, taxes, and economic activity. Please vote against a flavor ban!

Sincerely,

Mariah Balentine
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