

## Menshek, Peggy Y

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**From:** Jeffrey Opp <jeffopp17@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 26, 2015 8:46 AM  
**To:** Yang, Blong  
**Subject:** Please protect adult awareness of flavored vapor products. Oppose amending Tobacco Dealers Ordinance.

Jeffrey Opp  
6970 Ticonderoga Trail  
Eden Prairie, MN 55346

June 26, 2015

Dear Blong Yang,

I am writing as a Minneapolis resident, taxpayer, and voter urging you to oppose an amendment to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code. As written, the amended ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored vapor products and low-risk, smoke-free tobacco products at hundreds of locations around the city. If passed, a total of only 15 retailers in the city will be permitted to sell these products. Limiting adult exposure to fewer than 5% of licensed retailers will only serve to protect the combustible cigarette market by removing the option for a less harmful product from the most common places current smokers purchase cigarettes. In no uncertain terms, the City of Minneapolis would actually be encouraging adult smokers to continue smoking.

I am also urging you reconsider the imposition of tobacco licensing on independent vapor retail shops. These establishments do not sell tobacco as defined by either state or federal law. Continuing to require tobacco licensing for vapor products inherently dishonest and exposes them to other regulations specifically intended to regulate cigarettes. I am concerned that a step in this direction will ultimately lead to an unjustified, managed decline in my access to these life saving products.

I am a former Smoker that has embraced Vaping, particularly some of the great flavors associated with it. It is how I quit smoking. I will be making the short drive to WI in the future to buy my products as many of my friends will be as well. You are not only hurting us, but local retail as well as I buy my products and the gas station now.

I and my fellow members of the Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives Association thank you for considering my comments and urge you to amend this ordinance to explicitly exclude vapor products. Please keep me informed as to the progress of this proposal and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey Opp

To Minneapolis City Council:

I am writing in opposition to the Ordinance Amendment 281 Tobacco products sales and cigar prices being submitted to the Minneapolis City Council.

I own the property and gas station at 1700 E. Lake Street. If this amended ordinance passes, my gas stations future will be in jeopardy. My customers will go elsewhere for their tobacco needs, so therefore will distress the entirety of my business and sales. This is not a practical solution, and does not stop the products from being accessible. You most likely will see more tobacco shops opening in the city.

**I urge you to vote against this change.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Assad Awaijane', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Assad Awaijane  
Stop N Shop #4/ Cedar Petroleum Inc.  
1700 E. Lake St.  
#763-286-0639

To the editor  
Star Tribune

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I have a message for our city council members. Convenience Stores are the anchor of their neighborhoods. It's what brings us together. It is very difficult for us to survive in these tough economic times. We are trying hard to keep our doors open, protect our employee's jobs and provide a place for our customers to get their necessities. We need your help to do this.

We need your voice to stand up and say now is not the time to be increasing taxes, or banning the very products that bring our customers in the door. Now is not the time to put any additional burdens on small business owners who are trying to protect their employees from layoffs.

We need you to stand up for us and say no to the tobacco ban and tax increase.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Belal Assad', with several overlapping strokes and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Belal Assad

FULL STOP  
1818 Lowry Avenue North  
Minneapolis MN 55411  
(612)588-0973

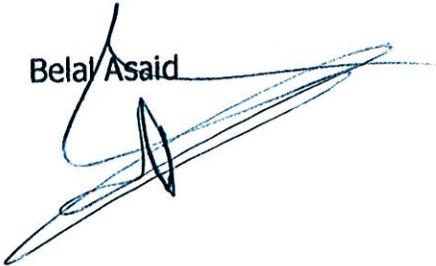


Councilman Blong Yang  
350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Room 307  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Councilman,

I can't understand why the city council wants to punish mom and pop businesses by singling us out for sales bans and tax increases. We work hard to provide our customers the products they need in their neighborhoods. I am so upset I have written a letter to the paper to share my feelings. Here is a copy.

Belal Asaid

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Belal Asaid', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible due to the ink bleed-through and the way it is written.





Sue Schettle, Chief Executive Officer  
1300 Godward Street NE, Ste 2000, Minneapolis, MN 55413  
612.623.2885 • [www.metrodoctors.com](http://www.metrodoctors.com)

July 2, 2015

Members of the City Council  
City of Minneapolis  
350 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Twin Cities Medical Society in support of the ordinance to restrict the sales of flavored tobacco to adult only tobacco shops. We are a membership organization that represents approximately 5,000 physicians living and working in the Twin Cities metro area. One of our key missions is advocating for policies that promote public health. During the June 8<sup>th</sup> public hearing we expressed our support of this ordinance.

Our physician members share all too often that tobacco is still a problem! Removing flavored tobacco from stores where kids frequent is the next step in reducing Minnesota youth smoking initiation rates. Flavored tobacco restrictions are effective and Minneapolis now has the opportunity to be a leader among the nation. Flavored tobacco is cheap and appealing to youth; several youth representatives even spoke to this during the public hearing.

During the next few days I imagine you will hear from business owners, but I respectfully ask that you remember the youth that shared their personal experiences with flavored tobacco products being a problem in their communities and among their peers. A quarter of Minnesota high school students have tried flavored cigars; flavorings are a gateway to a lifetime of nicotine addiction.

Thank you for taking this brave step to protect the young people of Minneapolis. This ordinance will continue to create an environment in which, youth do not view tobacco as a norm. We stand behind this ordinance, and you. Thank you for protecting the public health of Minneapolis residents. Your leadership is an invaluable asset to the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Schettle".

Sue Schettle, Chief Executive Officer

## Menshek, Peggy Y

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**From:** Yang, Ger on behalf of Yang, Blong  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 02, 2015 10:09 AM  
**To:** Council Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Pro Tobacco/Cigar Ordinance

**From:** Minneapolis Forever [<mailto:minneapolisforever@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, July 02, 2015 8:41 AM

**To:** Council Members

**Subject:** Pro Tobacco/Cigar Ordinance

Council Members:

I am taking time to write you in support of measures that will help keep young people smoke-free. Having lost many family member to smoking related cancers, I know the huge tolls placed not only on the smoker, but also on those around them. My father who was a life long conservative, suddenly changed his mind about the 'freedom to smoke' once he was diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer. He felt they should be banned entirely, since they serve 'no good use', and have such enormous tolls on public health. As well as huge public costs in combating the damage done by the products.

Additionally, these wrappers litter the streets of my north Minneapolis community. In a single block, while picking up trash weekly, I typically find at least 50 FIFTY of these wrappers on the ground. They are not bio-degradable, and due to their small size, many will end up in our lakes and steams, this is simply unacceptable.

Furthermore, most people will admit, if they are honest, the majority of these flavored cigars will be used illicitly to make 'blunts'.

Personally, I find the logic that if this proposal is enacted, that xyz convenience store will have to lay off x number of employees to be nothing but propaganda and fear mongering. But even if one does buy into that ridiculous rhetoric, now is still the time to act on this critical issue since there are plenty of jobs in Minneapolis right now. So, if there are any displaced workers they will be able to find another job quickly since just about everyone is hiring right now, in fact, many are having a hard time finding workers. So maybe this is just what the doctor ordered.

Highest regards, and Godspeed on this issue.

## Menshek, Peggy Y

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**From:** Yang, Ger on behalf of Yang, Blong  
**Sent:** Monday, June 29, 2015 3:39 PM  
**To:** Council Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Ordinance to restrict flavored tobacco products to adult-only stores

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**From:** Deb Cavitt [<mailto:Dcavitt@macmh.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 29, 2015 2:58 PM  
**To:** Council Members  
**Subject:** Proposed Ordinance to restrict flavored tobacco products to adult-only stores

Members of the Minneapolis City Council  
350 S. 5th St., Room 307  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear Members of the City Council:

I am writing on behalf of the Southside Urban Coalition, a Drug-Free Communities coalition focused on preventing youth substance abuse in south Minneapolis. We are in support of the proposed ordinance that would restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco shops and increase the price of little cigars and cigarillos.

Flavored tobacco is one of the primary ways the tobacco industry is appealing to youth. Flavored products are designed and marketed to appeal to youth. They have extremely cheap prices; some can be found for as low as three little cigars for \$1. The packaging is bright and colorful and often barely distinguishable from candy. Many flavored tobacco products contain the same flavorings used to make Kool-Aid and candy. This flavoring masks the harshness of tobacco, so when youth use them they don't think they are doing something harmful. Additionally, these products are frequently used in combination with marijuana as blunt wraps. Cheap cigars and other flavored products serve as a way to get youth addicted and create lifelong customers for the tobacco industry.

The tobacco industry's marketing to youth is paying off for them. According to the 2014 Minnesota Youth Tobacco Survey (MYTS), in 2014, an estimated 55,400 public school students in grades 6-12 used some form of tobacco product in the past 30 days.

The MYTS also revealed that 18.4 percent of high school students reported smoking tobacco with a hookah or waterpipe. Additionally, nearly 1 in 8 Minnesota high school students have used or tried e-cigarettes at least once in the past 30 days. These tobacco products are available in corner stores and gas stations youth visit each day and usually come in flavors such as bubble gum, cotton candy and cherry cola.

We need to do everything we can to assure that our youth don't become lifelong tobacco users. By taking these products out of stores youth frequent, you will help send the message that these products are not safe. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



## Menshek, Peggy Y

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**From:** Yang, Ger on behalf of Yang, Blong  
**Sent:** Monday, June 29, 2015 11:47 AM  
**To:** Council Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Flavored tobacco restriction

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**From:** Ruth Tripp [<mailto:rmstripp@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Saturday, June 27, 2015 1:49 PM

**To:** Yang, Blong; Gordon, Cam A.

**Cc:** Goodman, Lisa R.

**Subject:** Flavored tobacco restriction

Dear Council Members Yang and Gordon,

I want to thank both of you for putting the tobacco flavoring and pricing ordinance forward. Increasing the price of tobacco is the most effective method of decreasing tobacco use and preventing youth initiation. The flavorings you are restricting are clearly targeting children and youth. Youth exposure to the products needs to be eliminated. You are to be commended for taking this on as the tobacco industry I am sure is fighting this very hard - directly and through their front organizations - convenience store retailers and gas station operators. The youth came to you and you responded - a wonderful thing to see.

I understand there is consideration of allowing the sale of these products in liquor stores. This clearly reflects bowing to industry pressure. Please hold strong on the original proposed ordinance to protect youth from these products. Do not allow amendments such as this that will make it a weak regulation. It would be a departure from ordinances that have already been passed and are successful in reducing sales of these products in other cities in the U.S. Your acts now will set precedence in Minnesota - other cities will follow your lead. Stay strong, hold the line with the original proposed ordinance.

I don't believe entrance to the store by those under 21 is enforced. In reading reports of Minneapolis compliance checks, if the retailer does not SELL liquor they pass the check, yet it is also a violation to allow the underage youth to enter the store. Yet it does not appear citations are written for this. It would seem that all stores that allowed the youth to get as far as the counter to purchase should be cited. Is this happening? In my experience with this work in other cities, this is also true of tobacco shops, or adult only tobacco retailers - they seldom are checked by cities on their restricting entrance of minors. Compliance checks only focus on the sale - not other elements of the regulation, such as age of entry to the stores. Another example of youth entering liquor stores are parents who allow their children to accompany them into the store when they are purchasing. This happens frequently - I know many adults who say they do this. So - these youngsters who enter illegally on their own or with an adult will be exposed to flavored tobacco products and the associated marketing. If this exception is made you can bet that marketing, ads and visibility of flavored tobacco products will increase in these outlets.

Please stay strong. Stay with the policies that have been passed in other cities in the country. Please don't establish a precedence by making amendments that weaken the original.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this issue, using the tools available to further prevent youth from starting tobacco use. **Council Member Goodman** - please add your voice to protect our youth and future generations from the scourge of tobacco use - STILL the #1 cause of preventable death.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Tripp  
201 Thomas Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55405

## Menshek, Peggy Y

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**From:** Yang, Ger on behalf of Yang, Blong  
**Sent:** Friday, June 26, 2015 4:06 PM  
**To:** Council Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Proposed Tobacco Flavoring and Price Restrictions  
**Attachments:** ANSR Letter of Support Minneapolis City Council.pdf

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**From:** Emily Anderson [<mailto:emily@ansrmn.org>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2015 3:08 PM  
**To:** Council Members  
**Subject:** Support for Proposed Tobacco Flavoring and Price Restrictions

Dear Members of the Minneapolis City Council,

Attached, please find a letter from the Association for Nonsmokers-MN (ANSR) stating our support for your proposed tobacco flavoring and price restrictions.

Sincerely,

**Emily M. Anderson, MA**  
*Program Director*  
Tobacco-Free Youth Recreation and Tobacco-Free Campuses  
[www.ansrmn.org](http://www.ansrmn.org)

**Association for Nonsmokers - Minnesota**  
2395 University Avenue West, Suite 310  
Saint Paul, MN 55114  
Office: (651) 646-3005  
Fax: (651) 646-0142

*Please note that I am in the office Monday-Thursday each week.*

*A few dollars can do a lot of good! Please consider donating and becoming an ANSR member. Learn more:*  
<http://ansrmn.org/join>



June 23, 2015

Minneapolis City Council  
350 S. 5th St., Room 307  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear Members of the City Council:

The Association for Nonsmokers – Minnesota (ANSR) strongly supports your efforts to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco shops and increase the price of cigars and cigarillos to a minimum of \$2.60 each. Since 1973, ANSR has worked to prevent youth tobacco use by helping enact strong public policies like the one you are considering.

The tobacco industry targets young people with flavored tobacco products. As a result, high percentages of Minnesota high school students have tried flavored cigars, flavored shisha, and flavored e-cigarettes. These products are often inexpensive and therefore more accessible to price-sensitive youth. Currently, cigars are sold for as little as three for \$1 in Minneapolis. This makes them attractive to young people, who are three times more price sensitive than adults.

We know that flavored tobacco restrictions and price increases work. New York City and Providence, RI have successfully implemented ordinances that restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products. Several communities in Minnesota have successfully implemented ordinances that set a minimum price for cigars, including Brooklyn Center and Saint Paul at \$2.10 and Bloomington and Maplewood at \$2.60.

By adopting this ordinance, Minneapolis will be at the forefront of helping to prevent another generation from becoming lifelong tobacco users. Again, we strongly support your efforts and will provide any technical assistance you might require as this important ordinance moves forward.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Weigum  
President, Association for Nonsmokers – Minnesota



## Menshek, Peggy Y

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**From:** Yang, Ger on behalf of Yang, Blong  
**Sent:** Friday, June 26, 2015 1:45 PM  
**To:** Council Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Tobacco Ordinance

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**From:** ora hokes [<mailto:nguzosabainstitute@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 25, 2015 10:08 PM  
**To:** Yang, Blong  
**Subject:** Tobacco Ordinance

Hotep!

How are you on this Blessed day, Council Member Yang?

It has come to my attention that you might be "back peddling" on the latest Tobacco Ordinance by choosing to make an Amendment to exempt Liquor stores.

This heightens my concern, being a resident of zip code 55411; which has the highest health disparities in the city. Not to mention poverty level and unemployment.

As you know any person under the age of 18 years can enter a Liquor and make a purchase of a non-alcoholic or tobacco product. With this in place, a minor can enter a Liquor store, with or without an adult, make a selection of alcohol or tobacco product, and give the money to an adult and this adult can make the purchase for this minor. They minor, upon leaving the Liquor store, can receive the merchandise. A Liquor store should be included as an "adult-only" store; thereby restricting sale and access of tobacco to minors.

The two Liquor stores located at - 7th & Plymouth and Lyndale and West Broadway - have no significant interest in the health and wellness of people African descent (their primary customers); or any other ethnic groups.

My hope and prayer is that as our elected representative, hold firm to your previous commitment.

On today, ANSR-MN conducted a survey with youth at 25 Liquor stores in the Metropolitan area. 100% of these stores allowed youth under the age of 18 years old; 60% allowed purchase of a non-alcoholic product. These stores have candy and treat-like items to induce youth into their stores.

On July 10th, vote yes to restrict sale of tobacco to adult-only stores and not to exempt Liquor stores.

Asante.

Ora Hokes  
1350 Russell Avenue North  
Minneapolis 55411

## Menshek, Peggy Y

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**From:** Petersen, Mary E. on behalf of Quincy, John  
**Sent:** Friday, June 26, 2015 9:37 AM  
**To:** Kasper, Irene M.  
**Subject:** FW: Please protect adult awareness of flavored vapor products. Oppose amending Tobacco Dealers Ordinance.

A couple for the record

-----Original Message-----

**From:** David Joyslin [<mailto:davej@usiwireless.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2015 7:25 AM  
**To:** Quincy, John  
**Subject:** Please protect adult awareness of flavored vapor products. Oppose amending Tobacco Dealers Ordinance.

David Joyslin  
3609 39th Avenue south  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

June 19, 2015

Dear John Quincy,

I am writing as a Minneapolis resident, taxpayer, and voter urging you to oppose an amendment to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code. As written, the amended ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored vapor products and low-risk, smoke-free tobacco products at hundreds of locations around the city. If passed, a total of only 15 retailers in the city will be permitted to sell these products. Limiting adult exposure to fewer than 5% of licensed retailers will only serve to protect the combustible cigarette market by removing the option for a less harmful product from the most common places current smokers purchase cigarettes. In no uncertain terms, the City of Minneapolis would actually be encouraging adult smokers to continue smoking.

I am also urging you reconsider the imposition of tobacco licensing on independent vapor retail shops. These establishments do not sell tobacco as defined by either state or federal law. Continuing to require tobacco licensing for vapor products inherently dishonest and exposes them to other regulations specifically intended to regulate cigarettes. I am concerned that a step in this direction will ultimately lead to an unjustified, managed decline in my access to these life saving products.

I and my fellow members of the Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives Association thank you for considering my comments and urge you to amend this ordinance to explicitly exclude vapor products. Please keep me informed as to the progress of this proposal and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,  
David Joyslin

Nicholas Norman  
3305 Bryant Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55408

June 22, 2015

Dear John Quincy,

I am writing as a Minneapolis resident, taxpayer, and voter urging you to oppose an amendment to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code. As written, the amended ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored vapor products and low-risk, smoke-free tobacco products at hundreds of locations around the city. If passed, a total of only 15 retailers in the city will be permitted to sell these products. Limiting adult exposure to fewer than 5% of licensed retailers will only serve to protect the combustible cigarette market by removing the option for a less harmful product from the most common places current smokers purchase cigarettes. In no uncertain terms, the City of Minneapolis would actually be encouraging adult smokers to continue smoking.

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Sincerely,  
Nicholas Norman

## Menshek, Peggy Y

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**From:** Petersen, Mary E. on behalf of Quincy, John  
**Sent:** Friday, June 26, 2015 9:34 AM  
**To:** Kasper, Irene M.  
**Subject:** FW: Please protect adult awareness of flavored vapor products. Oppose amending Tobacco Dealers Ordinance.

Several for the record

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ben Wilkins [mailto:vincitomniaveritas1985@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 12:45 PM  
**To:** Quincy, John  
**Subject:** Please protect adult awareness of flavored vapor products. Oppose amending Tobacco Dealers Ordinance.

Ben Wilkins  
113 3rd. St. E.  
Jordan, MN 55352

June 22, 2015

Dear John Quincy,

I am writing as a Jordan resident, taxpayer, and voter urging you to oppose an amendment to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code. As written, the amended ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored vapor products and low-risk, smoke-free tobacco products at hundreds of locations around the city. If passed, a total of only 15 retailers in the city will be permitted to sell these products. Limiting adult exposure to fewer than 5% of licensed retailers will only serve to protect the combustible cigarette market by removing the option for a less harmful product from the most common places current smokers purchase cigarettes. In no uncertain terms, the City of Minneapolis would actually be encouraging adult smokers to continue smoking.

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Sincerely,  
Ben Wilkins

Angelena Vaillancourt  
1400 Lagoon Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55408

June 22, 2015

Dear John Quincy,

I am writing as a Minneapolis resident, taxpayer, and voter urging you to oppose an amendment to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code. As written, the amended ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored vapor products and low-risk, smoke-free tobacco products at hundreds of locations around the city. If passed, a total of only 15 retailers in the city will be permitted to sell these products. Limiting adult exposure to fewer than 5% of licensed retailers will only serve to protect the combustible cigarette market by removing the option for a less harmful product from the most common places current smokers purchase cigarettes. In no uncertain terms, the City of Minneapolis would actually be encouraging adult smokers to continue smoking.

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Sincerely,  
Angelena Vaillancourt

Jason Downing  
56 Wentworth Ct W  
Minneapolis, MN 55419

June 22, 2015

Dear John Quincy,

I am writing as a Minneapolis resident urging you to oppose an amendment to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code. As written, the amended ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored vapor products and low-risk, smoke-free tobacco products at hundreds of locations around the city. If passed, a total of only 15 retailers in the city will be permitted to sell these products. Limiting adult exposure to fewer than 5% of licensed retailers will only serve to protect the combustible cigarette market by removing the option for a less harmful product from the most common places current smokers purchase cigarettes. In no uncertain terms, the City of Minneapolis would actually be encouraging adult smokers to continue smoking.

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Sincerely,  
Jason Downing

Jeff Weeldreyer  
3412 Chalet Ct. NW  
Rochester, MN 55901

June 21, 2015

Dear John Quincy,

I am writing as a Minneapolis resident, taxpayer, and voter urging you to oppose an amendment to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code. As written, the amended ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored vapor products and low-risk, smoke-free tobacco products at hundreds of locations around the city. If passed, a total of only 15 retailers in the city will be permitted to sell these products. Limiting adult exposure to fewer than 5% of licensed retailers will only serve to protect the combustible cigarette market by removing the option for a less harmful product from the most common places current smokers purchase cigarettes. In no uncertain terms, the City of Minneapolis would actually be encouraging adult smokers to continue smoking.

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Sincerely,  
Jeff Weeldreyer

Sean Kiser  
P.O. Box 130542  
Saint Paul, MN 55113

June 20, 2015

Dear John Quincy,

I am writing as a Minneapolis resident, taxpayer, and voter urging you to oppose an amendment to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code. As written, the amended ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored vapor products and low-risk, smoke-free tobacco products at hundreds of locations around the city. If passed, a total of only 15 retailers in the city will be permitted to sell these products. Limiting adult exposure to fewer than 5% of licensed retailers will only

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Sincerely,  
Sean Kiser

brian swanson  
8770 lyndale ave s  
bloomington, MN 55420

June 20, 2015

Dear John Quincy,

I am writing as a Minneapolis resident, taxpayer, and voter urging you to oppose an amendment to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code. As written, the amended ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored vapor products and low-risk, smoke-free tobacco products at hundreds of locations around the city. If passed, a total of only 15 retailers in the city will be permitted to sell these products. Limiting adult exposure to fewer than 5% of licensed retailers will only serve to protect the combustible cigarette market by removing the option for a less harmful product from the most common places current smokers purchase cigarettes. In no uncertain terms, the City of Minneapolis would actually be encouraging adult smokers to continue smoking.

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Sincerely, Brian Swanson  
brian swanson

Wayne Ribble  
404 E 8th St  
Starbuck, MN 56381

June 19, 2015

Dear John Quincy,

I am writing as a Minneapolis resident, taxpayer, and voter urging you to oppose an amendment to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code. As written, the amended ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored vapor products and low-risk, smoke-free tobacco products at hundreds of locations around the city. If passed, a total of only 15 retailers in the city will be permitted to sell these products. Limiting adult exposure to fewer than 5% of licensed retailers will only serve to protect the combustible cigarette market by removing the option for a less harmful product from the most common places current smokers purchase cigarettes. In no uncertain terms, the City of Minneapolis would actually be encouraging adult smokers to continue smoking.

My wife and I are members of CASAA, we both had been smoking "regular" cigarettes for over 30yrs. When we switched to e-cigarettes, I was smoking 2 packs a day, my wife was at 1 to 1 1/2 packs a day. Over the years, we had both tried to quit a minimum of 12 different times using ALL the "Conventional" & "Approved" methods. Patches, Gum, Hypnotism, Quit Line Support, Cold Turkey, Chantix ... NOTHING WORKED!!

We purchased a simple e-cigarette starter kit on Monday February 3rd 2014. We put aside our combustible, (regular), cigarettes and have not smoked since and have not felt the need to. Our health, breathing, blood pressure and energy levels have improved tremendously!

Non-tobacco flavored e-liquids are the PRIME reason for our success in quitting cigarettes. We detest tobacco flavored e-liquids ... fruit, sweet and candy flavored e-liquid,(what you are trying to prohibit), was, and is, the KEY to our and THOUSANDS of other Minnesotians success in quitting cigarettes ... PERIOD!!

I am also urging you reconsider the imposition of tobacco licensing on independent vapor retail shops. These establishments do not sell tobacco as defined by either state or federal law. Continuing to require tobacco licensing for vapor products inherently dishonest and exposes them to other regulations specifically intended to regulate cigarettes. I am concerned that a step in this direction will ultimately lead to an unjustified, managed decline in my access to these life saving products.

I and my fellow members of the Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives Association thank you for considering my comments and urge you to amend this ordinance to explicitly exclude vapor products. Please keep me informed as to the progress of this proposal and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Mr & Mrs Wayne Ribble

Cynthia Rumble  
5451 5th st ne  
Minneapolis, MN 55421

June 19, 2015

Dear John Quincy,

I am writing as a Minneapolis resident, taxpayer, and voter urging you to oppose an amendment to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code. As written, the amended ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored vapor products and

low-risk, smoke-free tobacco products at hundreds of locations around the city. If passed, a total of only 15 retailers in the city will be permitted to sell these products. Limiting adult exposure to fewer than 5% of licensed retailers will only serve to protect the combustible cigarette market by removing the option for a less harmful product from the most common places current smokers purchase cigarettes. In no uncertain terms, the City of Minneapolis would actually be encouraging adult smokers to continue smoking.

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I and my fellow members of the Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives Association thank you for considering my comments and urge you to amend this ordinance to explicitly exclude vapor products. Please keep me informed as to the progress of this proposal and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Rumble

Jeffrey Evenmo  
3651 POLK ST NE  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55418

June 19, 2015

Dear John Quincy,

I am writing as a Minneapolis resident, taxpayer, and voter urging you to oppose an amendment to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code. As written, the amended ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored vapor products and low-risk, smoke-free tobacco products at hundreds of locations around the city. If passed, a total of only 15 retailers in the city will be permitted to sell these products. Limiting adult exposure to fewer than 5% of licensed retailers will only serve to protect the combustible cigarette market by removing the option for a less harmful product from the most common places current smokers purchase cigarettes. In no uncertain terms, the City of Minneapolis would actually be encouraging adult smokers to continue smoking.

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I and my fellow members of the Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives Association thank you for considering my comments and urge you to amend this ordinance to explicitly exclude vapor products. Please keep me informed as to the progress of this proposal and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey Evenmo

Diana Bospachieva

4929 32nd ave s  
Minneapolis, MN 55417

June 19, 2015

Dear John Quincy,

I am writing as a Minneapolis resident, taxpayer, and voter urging you to oppose an amendment to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code. As written, the amended ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored vapor products and low-risk, smoke-free tobacco products at hundreds of locations around the city. If passed, a total of only 15 retailers in the city will be permitted to sell these products. Limiting adult exposure to fewer than 5% of licensed retailers will only serve to protect the combustible cigarette market by removing the option for a less harmful product from the most common places current smokers purchase cigarettes. In no uncertain terms, the City of Minneapolis would actually be encouraging adult smokers to continue smoking.

I am also urging you reconsider the imposition of tobacco licensing on independent vapor retail shops. These establishments do not sell tobacco as defined by either state or federal law. Continuing to require tobacco licensing for vapor products inherently dishonest and exposes them to other regulations specifically intended to regulate cigarettes. I am concerned that a step in this direction will ultimately lead to an unjustified, managed decline in my access to these life saving products.

I and my fellow members of the Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives Association thank you for considering my comments and urge you to amend this ordinance to explicitly exclude vapor products. Please keep me informed as to the progress of this proposal and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Diana Bospachieva

## Menshek, Peggy Y

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**From:** Petersen, Mary E. on behalf of Quincy, John  
**Sent:** Friday, June 26, 2015 9:26 AM  
**To:** Kasper, Irene M.  
**Subject:** FW: Please protect adult awareness of flavored vapor products. Oppose amending Tobacco Dealers Ordinance.

For record

Mary Petersen  
Associate, Council Member Quincy's office, Ward 11

City of Minneapolis – City Council  
350 South Fifth Street – Room #307  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
[www.MinneapolisMN.gov](http://www.MinneapolisMN.gov)  
612-673-2211  
[mary.petersen@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:mary.petersen@minneapolismn.gov)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Susan Price [<mailto:susan4310@msn.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 8:52 PM  
**To:** Quincy, John  
**Subject:** Please protect adult awareness of flavored vapor products. Oppose amending Tobacco Dealers Ordinance.

Susan Price  
1279 Burr Street  
St Paul, MN 55130

June 22, 2015

Dear John Quincy,

I am writing as a Minneapolis resident, taxpayer, and voter urging you to oppose an amendment to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code. As written, the amended ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored vapor products and low-risk, smoke-free tobacco products at hundreds of locations around the city. If passed, a total of only 15 retailers in the city will be permitted to sell these products. Limiting adult exposure to fewer than 5% of licensed retailers will only serve to protect the combustible cigarette market by removing the option for a less harmful product from the most common places current smokers purchase cigarettes. In no uncertain terms, the City of Minneapolis would actually be encouraging adult smokers to continue smoking.

I am also urging you reconsider the imposition of tobacco licensing on independent vapor retail shops. These establishments do not sell tobacco as defined by either state or federal law. Continuing to require tobacco licensing for vapor products inherently dishonest and exposes them to other regulations specifically intended to regulate cigarettes. I

## Menshek, Peggy Y

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**From:** Petersen, Mary E. on behalf of Quincy, John  
**Sent:** Friday, June 26, 2015 9:26 AM  
**To:** Kasper, Irene M.  
**Subject:** FW: Please protect adult awareness of flavored vapor products. Oppose amending Tobacco Dealers Ordinance.

For record

Mary Petersen  
Associate, Council Member Quincy's office, Ward 11

City of Minneapolis – City Council  
350 South Fifth Street – Room #307  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
[www.MinneapolisMN.gov](http://www.MinneapolisMN.gov)  
612-673-2211  
[mary.petersen@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:mary.petersen@minneapolismn.gov)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jeffrey Opp [<mailto:jeffopp17@msn.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 26, 2015 8:46 AM  
**To:** Quincy, John  
**Subject:** Please protect adult awareness of flavored vapor products. Oppose amending Tobacco Dealers Ordinance.

Jeffrey Opp  
6970 Ticonderoga Trail  
Eden Prairie, MN 55346

June 26, 2015

Dear John Quincy,

I am writing as a Minneapolis resident, taxpayer, and voter urging you to oppose an amendment to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code. As written, the amended ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored vapor products and low-risk, smoke-free tobacco products at hundreds of locations around the city. If passed, a total of only 15 retailers in the city will be permitted to sell these products. Limiting adult exposure to fewer than 5% of licensed retailers will only serve to protect the combustible cigarette market by removing the option for a less harmful product from the most common places current smokers purchase cigarettes. In no uncertain terms, the City of Minneapolis would actually be encouraging adult smokers to continue smoking.

I am also urging you reconsider the imposition of tobacco licensing on independent vapor retail shops. These establishments do not sell tobacco as defined by either state or federal law. Continuing to require tobacco licensing for vapor products inherently dishonest and exposes them to other regulations specifically intended to regulate cigarettes. I

am concerned that a step in this direction will ultimately lead to an unjustified, managed decline in my access to these life saving products.

I am a former Smoker that has embraced Vaping, particularly some of the great flavors associated with it. It is how I quit smoking. I will be making the short drive to WI in the future to buy my products as many of my friends will be as well. You are not only hurting us, but local retail as well as I buy my products and the gas station now.

I and my fellow members of the Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives Association thank you for considering my comments and urge you to amend this ordinance to explicitly exclude vapor products. Please keep me informed as to the progress of this proposal and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey Opp

## Menshek, Peggy Y

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**From:** Petersen, Mary E. on behalf of Quincy, John  
**Sent:** Friday, June 26, 2015 9:16 AM  
**To:** Kasper, Irene M.  
**Subject:** FW: Please protect adult awareness of flavored vapor products. Oppose amending Tobacco Dealers Ordinance.

For the record

Mary Petersen  
Associate, Council Member Quincy's office, Ward 11

City of Minneapolis – City Council  
350 South Fifth Street – Room #307  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
[www.MinneapolisMN.gov](http://www.MinneapolisMN.gov)  
612-673-2211  
[mary.petersen@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:mary.petersen@minneapolismn.gov)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Lauren Kust [<mailto:laurenn203@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2015 1:20 PM  
**To:** Quincy, John  
**Subject:** Please protect adult awareness of flavored vapor products. Oppose amending Tobacco Dealers Ordinance.

Lauren Kust  
1308 7th St. SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

June 19, 2015

Dear John Quincy,

I agree with the pre-written message below, but would also like to add my own. Putting a ban on flavored tobacco products will not do the world any good. People will always have an addiction to tobacco, you might as well make it more healthy. If the concern is children getting their hand on fruit flavors, you should focus more on making more severe punishments for giving minors tobacco. Most adults I know enjoy the fruit flavors, and know vaping is not healthy for them. Vaping is more healthy than cigarettes, and if you limit their consumption they will no doubt also be a huge loss of revenue for the state. Flavors that are not available in stores will become so in the underground market. Do you really want to make people more sick than they are? If you remove this, you are encouraging people to continue smoking. Vaping has helped many people I know lower their nicotine intake, or completely rid of smoking. Also, many businesses would be in jeopardy.

I am writing as a Minneapolis resident, taxpayer, and voter urging you to oppose an amendment to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code. As written, the amended ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored vapor products and low-risk, smoke-free tobacco products at hundreds of locations around the city. If passed, a total of only 15 retailers in the city will be permitted to sell these products. Limiting adult exposure to fewer than 5% of licensed retailers will only serve to protect the combustible cigarette market by removing the option for a less harmful product from the most common places current smokers purchase cigarettes. In no uncertain terms, the City of Minneapolis would actually be encouraging adult smokers to continue smoking.

I am also urging you reconsider the imposition of tobacco licensing on independent vapor retail shops. These establishments do not sell tobacco as defined by either state or federal law. Continuing to require tobacco licensing for vapor products inherently dishonest and exposes them to other regulations specifically intended to regulate cigarettes. I am concerned that a step in this direction will ultimately lead to an unjustified, managed decline in my access to these life saving products.

I and my fellow members of the Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives Association thank you for considering my comments and urge you to amend this ordinance to explicitly exclude vapor products. Please keep me informed as to the progress of this proposal and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Lauren Kust

## Menshek, Peggy Y

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**From:** Petersen, Mary E. on behalf of Quincy, John  
**Sent:** Friday, June 26, 2015 9:15 AM  
**To:** Kasper, Irene M.  
**Subject:** FW: Please protect adult awareness of flavored vapor products. Oppose amending Tobacco Dealers Ordinance.

Hi Irene, I'm not sure if John forwarded this to you.

Mary Petersen  
Associate, Council Member Quincy's office, Ward 11

City of Minneapolis – City Council  
350 South Fifth Street – Room #307  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
[www.MinneapolisMN.gov](http://www.MinneapolisMN.gov)  
612-673-2211  
[mary.petersen@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:mary.petersen@minneapolismn.gov)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jeff Weeldreyer [<mailto:jeffwone@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2015 2:32 PM  
**To:** Quincy, John  
**Subject:** Please protect adult awareness of flavored vapor products. Oppose amending Tobacco Dealers Ordinance.

Jeff Weeldreyer  
3412 Chalet Ct. NW  
Rochester, MN 55901

June 19, 2015

Dear John Quincy,

I am writing as a Minneapolis resident, taxpayer, and voter urging you to oppose an amendment to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code. As written, the amended ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored vapor products and low-risk, smoke-free tobacco products at hundreds of locations around the city. If passed, a total of only 15 retailers in the city will be permitted to sell these products. Limiting adult exposure to fewer than 5% of licensed retailers will only serve to protect the combustible cigarette market by removing the option for a less harmful product from the most common places current smokers purchase cigarettes. In no uncertain terms, the City of Minneapolis would actually be encouraging adult smokers to continue smoking.

I am also urging you reconsider the imposition of tobacco licensing on independent vapor retail shops. These establishments do not sell tobacco as defined by either state or federal law. Continuing to require tobacco licensing for vapor products inherently dishonest and exposes them to other regulations specifically intended to regulate cigarettes. I

am concerned that a step in this direction will ultimately lead to an unjustified, managed decline in my access to these life saving products.

I and my fellow members of the Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives Association thank you for considering my comments and urge you to amend this ordinance to explicitly exclude vapor products. Please keep me informed as to the progress of this proposal and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Weeldreyer

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## MEMORANDUM

**FROM:** Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota (ANSR)

**TO:** Minneapolis City Council Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee

**CC:** Council Member Blong Yang

**DATE:** June 18, 2015

**RE:** Response to questions posed at the June 8, 2015 public hearing on the proposed tobacco sales ordinance amendment.

### Background

On June 8, 2015, the Minneapolis City Council Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee held a public hearing on proposed amendments to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Licenses and Business Regulations: Tobacco Dealers, regulating sales.

The committee heard comments from the public health sector, tobacco vendors and the general public on the proposal which would regulate the sale of flavored tobacco products and set a minimum price for cigars within the City of Minneapolis.

During the public hearing, committee members raised several questions to which immediate answers were not available. This memorandum serves to respond to those questions prior to the committee's next meeting on June 22, 2015.

**Question:** Will the ordinance prohibit the sale of flavored pipe tobacco, except in adult-only tobacco shops?

**Answer:** Yes, the ordinance will prohibit the sale of flavored pipe tobacco, except in adult-only tobacco shops. The ordinance will also cover chew, snuff, dissolvable tobacco, cigarillos, cigars, e-cigarettes, e-cigarette juice, roll-your-own tobacco, and shisha.

Past experience shows us that when pipe tobacco is exempted from regulation, the tobacco industry rebrands the more popular roll-your-own cigarette tobacco to pipe tobacco in order to avoid the regulation. Furthermore, an exemption for any one tobacco product would make the ordinance more vulnerable to legal attacks. Our attorneys strongly recommend adopting an ordinance with no product exemptions.

**Question:** Why does the current proposal exempt menthol, mint and wintergreen tobacco products from the sales restriction?

**Answer:** In 2009, the FDA banned candy- and fruit-flavored cigarettes, but chose not to regulate menthol cigarettes. The current proposal in Minneapolis is meant to apply this same rule to other tobacco products (OTPs). Further, the proposed ordinance language was modeled after ordinances that have been successfully passed in New York City and Providence, RI. Both of those cities did not include menthol, mint or wintergreen in their flavoring restrictions.

While the current proposal does not do so, the City of Minneapolis may wish to consider prohibiting the sale of menthol, mint and wintergreen tobacco products, including cigarettes, in the future. This is something we will support after we have engaged more of the community in the conversation.

**Question:** Why doesn't the city institute a prohibition on the sale of flavored tobacco products throughout Minneapolis, rather than providing an exemption for adult-only tobacco shops?

**Answer:** The purpose of this exemption is to allow adults access to these products while protecting youth from exposure to these appealing products. Further, this policy is based on successful policies implemented in New York City and Providence, RI. Both of these policies included an exemption for adult-only tobacco product shops. In New York City, less than ten stores are now allowed to sell flavored tobacco. This policy was challenged in court by tobacco companies and was upheld. Our attorneys have expressed that we will be on safe legal ground by adopting similar language.

**Question:** Can the places allowed to sell flavored tobacco be expanded beyond tobacco shops to include other adult-only facilities such as strip clubs?

**Answer:** No, it is not recommended to allow such facilities to sell flavored tobacco. While facilities such as strip clubs may be adult-only, few other establishments, such as bars and liquor stores, are adult at all-times. Bars and liquor stores often allow access to minors at certain times of the day. To preserve the legal arguments on making these products available only to adults, the definition of tobacco shop should remain as is and only include stores that derive 90 percent of their revenue from tobacco and prohibit minors from entering the premises at any time.

Loon Grocery  
2501 Lyndale Ave. S  
Minneapolis, MN 55405  
(612)871-2245



Star Tribune  
Editorial Page:

I have been the manager of the Loon Grocery for 16 years. I came from Morocco to Minneapolis for the opportunity of a better life. If the city council bans flavored cigars, I worry that many stores like ours could be forced to close. With almost 30% of our sales coming from cigar sales and 50% of all our customers purchasing some kind of cigar, a ban on flavored cigars would be devastating. It is just bad public policy to single out C-stores for this ban. The vast majority of C-stores don't sell tobacco to anyone underage. In fact, our store has won two awards from the city for tobacco compliance. Small businesses like ours are the backbone of our city's neighborhoods. We need to do all we can to protect them. I am asking the city council members to please vote against this ban and protect small business owners and their employees.

Thank you,

PREI)

El Morocco

Elizabeth Glidden  
350 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Room 307  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear Councilwoman Glidden,

I am writing you today to ask you to please vote against the flavor ban on cigars. I am enclosing a copy of the letter to the editor that I sent to the Star Tribune. I hope you will read it and think of the small business owners and their employees when you cast this important vote. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

ALCB  
Reynold (A) 

Honorable Elizabeth Glidden  
350 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Room 307  
Minneapolis, MN 55415



Councilwoman Glidden,

Please take a moment to read a letter I recently sent to the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Assad Awaijane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Assad Awaijane

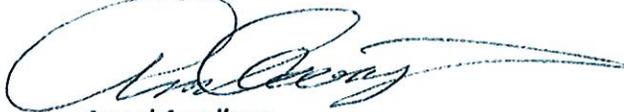
**To the Editor**

***Councilman Cam Gordon has been a tireless crusader for the citizens of Minneapolis, but he is about to deal a death blow to the hundreds of small business owners like myself who have moved into this wonderful city to provide good jobs for others who wish to live here.***

***The bill that would ban the sale of certain tobacco products for only one group of businesses is not only unfair but will do nothing but drive my customers out of the city to buy these products and while there, buy other products I sell.***

***I am asking Councilman Gordon and the other members of the city council to work with us to find a long term solution to the concerns of so many, while at the same time protect the small businesses that have made our city a great place to work and live.***

***Respectfully,***



**Assad Awaijane**

**STOP N SHOP**

**1700 East Lake St.**

**Minneapolis, MN 55407**

**612-728-1647**

**Loon Express**  
2801 Lyndale Ave. S  
Minneapolis, MN 55408  
(612)870-2787

Councilmember Blong Yang  
350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Room 307  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

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Dear Councilmember Yang,

If the city council were truly concerned about protecting our children, they would spend more money to keep our parks open longer, provide more recreational activities to keep them off the streets, and keep our libraries open later in the evening. There are many things to be done beyond singling out small business owners like myself.

I hope you will take the time to read a letter I sent to the editor. Lets all work together to find long term solutions to our city's challenges.

Sincerely,

Al: Kler:1

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Al: Kler:1' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

# Loon Express

2801 Lyndale Avenue S  
Minneapolis, MN 55408  
(612) 870-2787

To the Editor,

I recently saw an ad on TV about tobacco manufacturers targeting small children. It was very sensational but has nothing to do with small retailers like myself, who work hard every day to curb the underage sale of tobacco. In fact, 88% of underage tobacco users get their tobacco from social sources. These social sources include friends who are over 18, parents, or strangers who they pay to buy them tobacco.

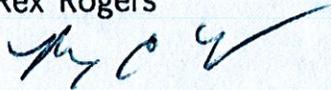
If the city is truly concerned about protecting our children, why don't they ban the sale of the new flavored alcoholic malt beverages? The city council needs to take a long look at what type of risky behavior is the most threatening to our city's youth before targeting one small segment of retailers who sell flavored tobacco to adults.

Ali Khalil  


Blong Yang  
City Council  
350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Room 307  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

We need to protect our tax base if we hope to move our city forward.  
I hope you will take the time to read the letter I have sent to our  
paper.

Rex Rogers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rex Rogers', with a large, stylized checkmark or flourish extending to the right.

GM TOBACCO  
2927 27<sup>th</sup> Ave. S  
Minneapolis, MN 55406  
612-728-8085

**Editor,**

***The city council raises our taxes to pay for their new football stadium, then they want to ban the products we sell that pays those taxes. It makes no sense... They can't have it both ways...***

***It seems the billionaires get richer and the workers pay their bills. We can pay for a stadium but we don't have enough money to fix our streets and keep our libraries open longer.***

***No business should be punished for selling a legal product. This ban and tax increase will cause thousands to go outside the city to buy our products. Decreasing our tax base and causing taxes to go up for everyone. There are negative consequences for our entire city when products are banned and taxes are increased.***

**Rex Rogers**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rex Rogers', written in a cursive style.

## Menshek, Peggy Y

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**From:** Susan Price <susan4310@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 8:52 PM  
**To:** Yang, Blong  
**Subject:** Please protect adult awareness of flavored vapor products. Oppose amending Tobacco Dealers Ordinance.

Susan Price  
1279 Burr Street  
St Paul, MN 55130

June 22, 2015

Dear Blong Yang,

I am writing as a Minneapolis resident, taxpayer, and voter urging you to oppose an amendment to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code. As written, the amended ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored vapor products and low-risk, smoke-free tobacco products at hundreds of locations around the city. If passed, a total of only 15 retailers in the city will be permitted to sell these products. Limiting adult exposure to fewer than 5% of licensed retailers will only serve to protect the combustible cigarette market by removing the option for a less harmful product from the most common places current smokers purchase cigarettes. In no uncertain terms, the City of Minneapolis would actually be encouraging adult smokers to continue smoking.

I am also urging you reconsider the imposition of tobacco licensing on independent vapor retail shops. These establishments do not sell tobacco as defined by either state or federal law. Continuing to require tobacco licensing for vapor products inherently dishonest and exposes them to other regulations specifically intended to regulate cigarettes. I am concerned that a step in this direction will ultimately lead to an unjustified, managed decline in my access to these life saving products.

I and my fellow members of the Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives Association thank you for considering my comments and urge you to amend this ordinance to explicitly exclude vapor products. Please keep me informed as to the progress of this proposal and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Susan Price

## Menshek, Peggy Y

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**From:** Nicholas Norman <nnormandy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 6:11 PM  
**To:** Yang, Blong  
**Subject:** Please protect adult awareness of flavored vapor products. Oppose amending Tobacco Dealers Ordinance.

Nicholas Norman  
3305 Bryant Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55408

June 22, 2015

Dear Blong Yang,

I am writing as a Minneapolis resident, taxpayer, and voter urging you to oppose an amendment to Title 13, Chapter 281 of the Minneapolis Code. As written, the amended ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored vapor products and low-risk, smoke-free tobacco products at hundreds of locations around the city. If passed, a total of only 15 retailers in the city will be permitted to sell these products. Limiting adult exposure to fewer than 5% of licensed retailers will only serve to protect the combustible cigarette market by removing the option for a less harmful product from the most common places current smokers purchase cigarettes. In no uncertain terms, the City of Minneapolis would actually be encouraging adult smokers to continue smoking.

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I and my fellow members of the Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives Association thank you for considering my comments and urge you to amend this ordinance to explicitly exclude vapor products. Please keep me informed as to the progress of this proposal and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Nicholas Norman

## Menshek, Peggy Y

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**From:** Yang, Ger on behalf of Yang, Blong  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 4:36 PM  
**To:** Council Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Tobacco ordinance: a proposal for your consideration next Monday

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**From:** Hylden, Nancy [<mailto:Nancy.Hylden@FaegreBD.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2015 4:14 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Cam A.; Johnson, Andrew; Frey, Jacob; Glidden, Elizabeth A.; Cano, Alondra; Bender, Lisa; Yang, Blong  
**Subject:** Tobacco ordinance: a proposal for your consideration next Monday

Dear Chair Gordon, Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee Members, and Council Member Yang:

On behalf of my client Holiday Companies and other responsible retailers in Minneapolis, I am writing to request you consider narrowing the impacted retailers relating to the proposed flavored tobacco ban.

Our coalition has noted a disconnect between the operations and conduct of responsible retailers versus the products sold by select retailers as observed by the Youth Congress. Following the recent stakeholders meeting, several of us visited a number of tobacco outlets that do not sell gasoline, noticing sales practices and products that differ significantly from what can be found at our convenience stores that do sell gasoline.

There is clearly a significant difference in the approach to tobacco product sales between responsible retailers, who go to great lengths to ensure sales associates are well trained, who keep tobacco products behind the counter as prescribed by law, and often times utilize technology to verify the age of purchasers, and "corner store" operators who are less vigilant in how they present and sell tobacco products.

Given these distinct differences, we offer the following ideas in order to narrow the focus of the ordinance to allow responsible retailers to continue to responsibly selling flavored tobacco product:

- **Adopt the flavor ban as defined in the current proposal for retailers with stores less than 3,000 square feet of sales space, but exempt retailers with gasoline pumps.**
  - + *This narrowing of the ordinance would disallow sales of flavored tobacco products where we believe under age sales are much more likely to occur.*
  - + *Because there are currently 77 licensed gas stations in Minneapolis, this would significantly reduce the number of retailers allowed to sell flavored tobacco in Minneapolis.*
- **Increase the penalties for retailers that fail compliance checks, including accelerated license suspensions for repeat violations.**

Some parties have attempted to minimize the flavor ban impact, asserting that "only" 5% of the tobacco revenue would be affected. Given that tobacco sales account for approximately 40% of in store revenue, the loss of 5% would cost responsible gasoline retailers tens of thousands of dollars annually per store in lost sales - revenue that cannot be made up. And in addition to losing tobacco sales, retailers will stand to lose significant ancillary sales of non-tobacco products when customers look elsewhere for convenience.

Thank you for considering these options as a way to recognize the efforts of responsible retailers that take the law seriously and work hard to follow it. We hope Chair Gordon will grant an opportunity for a representative of our coalition to present this proposal before the committee on Monday.

Sincerely,

**Nancy Hylden**

***Partner***

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