

Dear Councilmember Russ Stark,

As a public health professional and a resident of Saint Paul, I am writing to express my support for the cigar minimum package size ordinance. For years tobacco use has been the number one preventable cause of death in our country and our state. Smoking kills over 5400 Minnesotans each year. Despite this, we continue to let the tobacco industry addict our children to their deadly products. We need to take action to stop the tobacco industry.

Cheap tobacco is a strategy used by the tobacco industry to get young people to try their products and keep users addicted. According to the 2014 Surgeon General's Report, raising the price of tobacco is an effective method for reducing tobacco use, especially among youth. Let's raise the price of these cheap cigars so that the next generation can finally say tobacco use is NOT the number one cause of preventable death in our state.

Thank you for making Saint Paul a healthy place to live.

Sincerely,

Rachael Mills
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