



November 4, 2015

Members of the Saint Paul City Council  
15 W. Kellogg Blvd #310  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

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Dear Council President Stark and Members of the Saint Paul 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 further 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, tobacco products come in flavors such as piña colada, fruit punch, tutti frutti and bubble gum. This makes them attractive to young people, who think they are safer and healthier than other tobacco products.

We know that flavored tobacco restrictions and price increases work. Several cities throughout the country including New York City and Providence, RI have successfully implemented ordinances that restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products. Minneapolis has also adopted a similar ordinance which will go into effect on January 1, 2016. Additionally, by increasing the price of cigars to \$2.60, you are aligning your ordinance with other neighboring communities including Minneapolis, Maplewood and Bloomington.

By adopting this ordinance, Saint Paul 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

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