

Sep 04, 2017

Linda Huber

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Saint Paul, MN 55108-1935

Council Member Russ Stark
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
310-D City Hall
St. Paul, MN 55102

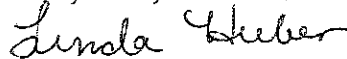
Dear Council Member Stark,

Our city officials should stop trying to interfere with the lives of tobacco users. The proposed ban on menthol cigarettes would be a major inconvenience for me and many others in the city. As someone who cares for an autistic adult child, I have quite a stressful life and find smoking to be a relaxing relief. The nearest place that I can purchase cigarettes is a mile away at a gas station. However, I prefer to go to a smoke shop that is over four miles away. This trip usually takes me over an hour because of the traffic. One of my friends who smokes menthols does not drive at all. Not being able to purchase cigarettes in Saint Paul would cause me to have to drive out of the city, and my friend would have to find a ride to purchase her cigarettes.

The city and state governments have already put too many restrictions on legal tobacco products. Taxes have gone up greatly over the past few years, making cigarette prices totally unreasonable. There have been times when I would use coupons for \$4 off at the gas station or \$1.25 off at the grocery store. In addition to making cigarettes more expensive, now our local government is trying to limit our flavor choices.

The continued effort by our city officials to restrict tobacco products even more will cause many people to purchase their tobacco elsewhere, and that would hurt countless local businesses. Smokes 4 Less is where I typically purchase my cigarettes every eight to ten days. They have a ton of stores in the city, but no one would shop there if they cannot sell the type of cigarettes that people want. Adult consumers should be allowed to choose their tobacco products and purchase them in our city. Take into consideration the impact this ban will have on our businesses and citizens, and oppose additional tobacco flavor limitations.

Thank you for your service,



Linda Huber