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November 3, 2015

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

Dear Council President Stark and Members of the Saint Paul City Council:

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids supports the proposed ordinance that would restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco shops. The Campaign is a leading force in the fight to reduce tobacco use and its deadly toll in the United States and around the world. Our vision: A future free of the death and disease caused by tobacco. We work to save lives by advocating for public policies that prevent kids from smoking, help smokers quit and protect everyone from secondhand smoke.

A recent study shows that despite its claims to have changed, the tobacco industry continues to lure kids into nicotine addiction with a wide assortment of sweet-flavored products. Based on data from the 2014 National Youth Tobacco Survey, the study finds that 70 percent of U.S. middle and high school tobacco users have used at least one flavored tobacco product in the past 30 days. Tobacco industry documents show the industry has long recognized that sweet flavors mask the harshness of tobacco and attract new tobacco users, especially kids. While a 2009 federal law banned sweet-flavored cigarettes, tobacco companies have introduced cheap cigars in a rainbow of youth-friendly flavors from watermelon to chocolate, and e-cigarettes are now available in literally thousands of flavors, including gummy bear, cotton candy and even “unicorn puke.”

Saint Paul has been a longtime leader when it comes to protecting the health and safety of our youth. We need to continue to do everything we can to protect the health of our young people. By taking these products out of stores youth visit daily, Saint Paul will help prevent another generation from becoming lifelong tobacco users. Thank you for your support.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter H. Fisher". The signature is stylized with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Peter H. Fisher
Vice President, State Issues
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