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December 4, 2018

City of St. Paul
15 W Kellogg Blvd,
St Paul, MN 55102

Dear Members of the St. Paul City Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Twin Cities Medical Society in support supports the BZA's original decision to deny the variance at 589 Dale. The Twin Cities Medical Society is an organization that represents approximately 4,500 physicians and medical students living and working in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area. Our physician members share all too often that tobacco is still a problem in our communities. In fact, tobacco use remains the #1 cause of preventable disease and death in Minnesota and costs the state over \$3 billion in excess medical costs each year.

The proposed shop clearly does not meet the requirement for spacing from an existing tobacco shop and does not support our shared vision of vibrant and healthy city. I hope that you will uphold the intent of previous tobacco ordinances by opposing this variance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Kottke MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "T" and "K".

Tom Kottke, MD
President of the Twin Cities Medical Society