

Dear Councilmember Stark

As a resident of Saint Paul and a medical doctor, I believe we should do everything we can to keep kids safe and healthy. This includes keeping kids tobacco-free. I am pleased to see Saint Paul is considering an ordinance that would stop cheap cigars from being sold in our stores.

These products are very appealing to kids. The wrappers look like fruit roll-up wrappers and they come in flavors that are similar to candy. They only cost 3 for 99 cents.

In 1985 I wrote a chapter on tobacco for the *Encyclopedia Britannica Health Update*. While conducting research for the chapter I became impressed at how successful the tobacco industry has been at reinventing itself with new products over the past 400 years. Cheap, candy-flavored cigars are just one more example. I would like Saint to raise the price of these addictive and dangerous products.

Thank you for your time and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

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