

Ward 1 had 25 "Beautiful Lie, Ugly Truth" postcards from Ward 1 residents

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Do not support the ban on menthol cigarettes in my neighborhood stores.

Susan Walker

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Dear CM Thao,

As I stated at a recent D6 meeting regarding this ban, St. Paul cannot expect to attract new or retain currently open businesses by regulating what they sell. As an employee of a small store in the North End, I can tell you that banning menthol cigarette sales will have a considerable impact on our business. It will take money right out of our pockets! People come in for a pack of cigarettes and pick up a gallon of milk, or a can of soda and a candybar. Please consider the negative impact this will have on so many small store owners around the metro.

Thank you,

Michele Hays

6XX Farrington

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Hello my name is Monique Griffin,

I feel like this world is taking everything from us already!! I'm a smoker!! The government had already making people eat better by removing certain things from grocery stores and schools. If we as people want to smoke let us!! It's been banned from smoking in bars.so now what we cant smoke at all? I really do think that's baloney, if we want cancer etc thats on us not yall.. So just let us alone for the ones who do smoke menthols etc.

Thank you

Very much.

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Council Member Dai Thao:

please do not support the menthol sales ban.

Patricia Ketola  
13XX Dayton Ave.  
St Paul MN 55104

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Please vote no on the menthol ban!!!!  
This is outrageous!!!!  
I'm a local business owner born and raised in St. Paul I'm a Caucasian male age 35, there trying to take away my freedom!!!!  
I've paid taxes my whole life  
We already pay 10\$ a pack!  
I've been smoking since I was 18 because it's my right as an American to make my own choices!!!  
This goes against the principles of the U.S constitution!!!  
This is not ok!!  
I will move across the river to Wisconsin if this passes and then pay no taxes to minnesota (my home)  
Why is it ok to buy shitty tasting tobacco but not ok to buy menthol which has been around 50+ years!!!  
If this ban goes through we will lose all faith in our minnesota government!!  
And I will never vote again!!!!'  
VOTE NO to the ban!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Ryan Pates

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Huge democrat but getting sick of democrats making decisions for him. It's up to consumer what they want to smoke; might as well ban all cigarettes then.

Patrick Picard

10XX James Ave

612-388-9943

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Dear Mr Dai Thao

My name is ABDALLA TOBASI, I own and operate 2 GAS STATIONS in the city of Saint Paul and served the community for 27 years, I am a member of this community and

care deeply about it.

I have a wife and 4 kids that I provide for, as you know I am self employed and must buy health Insurance for me and my family, my FAMILY'S HEALTH INSURANCE COST ME 40,000 PER YEAR.

yes that number is correct \$2400 per month deductible is \$13000 then it is a split 80/20, also my property taxes in St. Paul are going up 25% this year plus every other expense keeps going hire and hire.

Also I just finished updating my Gas Stations and spent \$800,000, there is absolutely noway i can pay all that after you take away 68% of my tobacco business.

We as small business owners that provide services to the community and revenues for the city have been struggling for a long time, THIS MENTHOL BAN will be a KNOCK OUT PUNCH to all of the small businesses of this type in the city, also to add insult to injury you will give that business to stores that have not been around as long as we have and they do not sell to the community eggs, bread ,food, snacks and gas instead they provide PIPES that people use to smoke DRUGS.

Honestly, IS that FAIR??

Also the rational behind this ban makes NO sense, Tobacco companies want to sell tobacco to every body not just minorities, we do not sell tobacco to minors and we run a decent and honest business, we abide by the laws of the land, there are laws already on the books already existed to prevent teenage smoking.

some things can be done like ban advertising, change the age to 21, keep tobacco behind counter. STOP THE FLOW OF DRUGS that filling the streets of Saint Paul, I am on the street and behind the counter serving my costumers, I know whats going on in the city,and what the teens smoke!!!!!!!

putting this hardship on us and/or running us out of business is NOT the answer to solving the community problems, you actually creating a problem to them by denying them having a stable small business in their community.

None of my costumers is happy about this ban, of them cant and or do not like going to tobacco stores, some of my gas costumers said they wont purchase gas from me because they do not have the time to make too many stops to pick up what they need, so the impact on my business will be HUGE.

I URGE YOU TO RE CONSIDER THIS BAN and lets all figure out another way to achieve some of these goals, I can provide lots of input.

For the rest of the respected council members that I cced, please vote NO to this very bad idea

Thank you for your consedetation

Abdalla Tobasi

Tobasi Inc,

8XX Selby Ave

St.Paul MN 55104

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Please do not support the ban of menthol Mont or Wintergreen cigarettes! I do not support it!

Thank you

V. R. Becker

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Ward 1 Had 18 emails from Ward 1 residents with this text:

*Dear Cnclm Thao, I am disappointed to learn that the some members of our City Council want to restrict the sale of tobacco products in my community. Banning menthol cigarettes and mint and wintergreen tobacco products could shift sales of these products from law abiding retailers to other sources, some of which could be illegal. As a result, the regulations being considered could potentially devastate responsible retailers that sell tobacco products across the city. It could also put local jobs at risk! Banning the sale of mint and wintergreen flavors in tobacco and e-vapor products, as well as menthol cigarettes will only further restrict the choices adults have for the products they prefer. My business employs your constituents and contributes to our local economy. The proposed sales bans would directly impact my bottom line by driving my customers to stores in neighboring towns where they can buy milk, bread, and other products that my store depends on. Regulation of flavored tobacco and e-vapor products already occurs at the federal level since the Food and Drug Administration has regulatory authority over tobacco products. Banning the sale of legal products preferred by adult tobacco consumers crosses the line. A ban goes too far. I will be watching this issue closely and ask that you oppose any attempt to ban tobacco sales anywhere in the Twin Cities. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.*

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Dear CM Thao,

I wanted to pass along to you some information I gathered today while at work. I work at a neighborhood grocery store that would, as I suspected, lose a substansial amount of money if the menthol ban is accepted.

Today a total of 18 people bought menthol tabacco products at our store. they ranged in age between elderly and a 27 yr old who I asked to show me his ID. Of the 18, only 3 bought just the tabacco. 5 of them bought over \$100.00 in groceries. These people would probably still shop if we didn't sell menthols. But the other 10 people bought mostly impulse items. We would probably lose those sales if we didn't have the menthol products. So we get hit twice. And that's how businesses are lost.

We service a lot of elderly folks in the neighborhood. Even delivering to some who can't come in anymore. They depend on us. Can you see how many people are going to be negatively effected by a menthol ban? Myself and my fellow employees, the store owners and their family, & our customers.

And let's be honest, do you really think this will save kids from smoking? It won't. They don't come in and buy them! They are still get their hands on them if they want to. And that's an issue that a parent should handle.

Please consider the above and don't support the ban on menthol. It won't make anyone quit smoking and it won't stop kids from getting them if they want them. Go ahead and beef up the checks to make sure stores aren't selling to underage people! But don't take away a business that a community depends on!

Thank you,

Michele Hays

6XX Farrington

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I have no idea where this letter came from. I AM a smoker and I personally believe that all cigarette sales should be banned.

-Beatrice Hammack, 6XX Central

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Paul Kamp from Kamp's Market, don't remove this revenue stream.

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Cynthia Moley, 10XX Randolph, opposed to the menthol ban, doesn't think it should be taken away

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Earl Allen, against the ban, stop messing with the little guy and go after big tobacco

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James Carter, 8XX Pierce Butler, called to oppose menthol ban.

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Reesha, 6XX N. Chatsworth, not supportive of menthol ban

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Troy Tyler, 14XX Ames, Don't vote for menthol ban, he is a consumer of the product.

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Resident 17XX Thomas, opposed to menthol ban

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No name, W 4 resident, would like to see them consider raising the cigarette age to 21, instead of the menthol ban, otherwise they're just moving business elsewhere

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VM from 9/11, no Name or Number left: There is no way you should be allowed to remove mint chewing tobacco from gas stations in St Paul. You're not my mom; you can't tell me what I can and cannot do.

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