



Sue Schettle, Chief Executive Officer
1300 Godward Street NE, Ste 2000, Minneapolis, MN 55413
612.623.2885 • www.metrodoctors.com

September 14, 2017

St Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310 City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mayor Coleman and Members of the St Paul City Council,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Twin Cities Medical Society, a membership organization that represents approximately 4,500 physicians and medical students living and working in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area. Advocating for policies that advance public health, including tobacco, is a key part of our organization's mission. Thank you for your support of St. Paul's 2016 ordinance restricting flavored tobacco products to adult-only stores. This policy was a major step toward protecting St. Paul's youth from the harms of tobacco, but our work is not yet done.

For decades the tobacco industry has used menthol tobacco to lure youth into smoking and created serious health inequities by targeting marginalized communities with these flavored products. Including menthol tobacco products in St. Paul's current flavored tobacco regulations would set St. Paul apart as a national leader and protect a generation of kids from becoming addicted to tobacco, which continues to be the leading cause of death and disease in our state.

On behalf of Twin Cities Medical Society, thank you for supporting this bold step to protect the health of St. Paul's residents. We look forward to working with you to protect our city from the harms of menthol tobacco.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Hunt", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Matt Hunt, MD
President of the Twin Cities Medical Society