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September 20, 2017

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

Dear St. Paul City Council Members

The Twin Cities Medical Society and the undersigned organizations are writing to express our strong support for including menthol tobacco products in St. Paul's current flavored tobacco regulations. The Twin Cities Medical Society is a membership organization that represents approximately 4,500 physicians and medical students living and working in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area. Our partners represent thousands of other healthcare providers and public health professionals living and working in the Twin Cities who are all too familiar with the devastating impact tobacco has on people's lives. In fact, despite significant progress over the decades, tobacco remains the leading cause of death and disease in Minnesota.

The tobacco industry uses menthol tobacco to lure youth into smoking and creates serious health inequities by targeting marginalized communities with these flavored products. Including menthol tobacco products in St. Paul's current flavored tobacco regulations will advance the health of our city by addressing a major source of tobacco-related health inequities. This bold step will also protect the next generation from a lifetime of addiction to deadly tobacco products and continue the legacy St. Paul has established as a national leader in public health and tobacco control.

We urge you to support this groundbreaking policy to protect our city from the harms of menthol tobacco. We stand behind this ordinance and you. Your leadership is an invaluable asset to our community.

Sincerely,

APRN Coalition  
Hmong Health Care Professionals Coalition  
Metro OBGYN  
Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians  
Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology  
Minnesota Dental Hygienists' Association  
Minnesota Dermatological Society  
Minnesota Medical Association  
Minnesota Medical Directors Association  
Minnesota Section of the American Congress of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Minnesota Organization of Leaders in Nursing  
Minnesota Orthopaedic Society  
Minnesota Public Health Association  
Minnesota Radiological Society  
NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center  
Open Cities Health Center  
Rainbow Health Initiative  
Smiley's Family Medicine Clinic  
Twin Cities Medical Society

