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Pilon, Janet

Subject: Concern Regarding Additional Municipal Tax on Vaping Products

From: Anmol Madaan

Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:48 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Concern Regarding Additional Municipal Tax on Vaping Products

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the newly introduced municipal tax on vaping products in the City of Hamilton.

As someone who has successfully used vaping as a tool to quit smoking — and has helped many others do the same — I strongly believe that adding yet another tax burden on these products is counterproductive to public health goals. Currently, vaping products are already subject to approximately 50% in combined federal and provincial taxes. These existing taxes are already a significant cost to consumers.

The addition of a municipal tax will only make these less harmful alternatives to smoking less accessible, especially to individuals who are trying to transition away from combustible tobacco. As costs rise, there is a real risk that some people may return to traditional cigarettes, which are more harmful and place a greater strain on the healthcare system.

Rather than imposing more taxes on harm-reduction tools, I urge the City of Hamilton to consider policies that support smoking cessation efforts. Encouraging the use of less harmful alternatives like vaping should be part of a balanced and evidence-based approach to public health.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope City Council will reconsider this decision in light of the broader implications it may have on community health and tobacco harm reduction efforts.

Sincerely,
Hamilton citizen