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Pilon, Janet

Subject: Hamilton Vape Tax

From: Lori Somerville
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:48 AM
To: <mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Hamilton Vape Tax

Dear Mayor Horwath and Council Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my firm opposition to the proposed vape tax in Hamilton. As a concerned resident, I believe this tax would have several unintended consequences that could negatively impact our community.

Firstly, imposing a tax on vape products could drive consumers to seek alternatives on the black market, where safety regulations and product standards are often overlooked. This could lead to an increase in health risks, rather than mitigating them.

Secondly, many people turn to vaping as a means to quit smoking traditional cigarettes. By making vape products more expensive, we could inadvertently discourage individuals from choosing this potentially less harmful option. The proposed tax could undermine public health efforts aimed at reducing smoking rates.

Lastly, small businesses in Hamilton that sell vape products would be unfairly burdened by this tax. Many of these businesses are already struggling to stay afloat, and additional financial strain could result in job losses and closures, harming our local economy.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the implications of this tax proposal and explore alternative measures that would better serve our community's health and economic well-being. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind regards,

Lori Somerville