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Pilon, Janet

Subject: Opposition to Hamilton Municipal Vape Tax

From: Alex Faltas
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10:15 AM
To: <mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Opposition to Hamilton Municipal Vape Tax

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express concern over the proposed additional tax on vape products in the city of Hamilton.

While we understand the intent behind increasing the tax on vaping, aimed at discouraging the youth and promoting public health. This measure could have unintended consequences. Specifically making legal vape products more expensive may drive consumers toward cheaper, unregulated and potentially far more dangerous and harmful black-market alternatives.

The use of black market vapes often lack quality control, proper labelling, and ingredient transparency, which poses a greater health risk than regulated products. By making legal options less accessible due to cost, this could encourage more dangerous consumption and behavior, especially among youth and low-income individuals.

Another important issue is the continued sale of black-market vape products in convenience stores, where underage individuals may more easily access them. Despite age restrictions and enforcement is often inconsistent. Stronger regulation and oversight of where and how vapes are sold could help reduce underage consumption without penalizing the responsible adult(19+) consumers who rely on regulated products as a smoking alternative.

I urge policy makers to consider the long-term consequences of adding such tax and to explore more balanced approaches, including more education on these products, regulations, and harm reduction strategies, this would protect public health without pushing individuals toward unsafe alternatives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

King regards,
Vape Club Staff