

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Concern Regarding Proposed Vape Tax

From: Dave B

Sent: Friday, May 2, 2025 11:01:38 AM

To: <mailto:mayor@hamilton.ca> <<mailto:mayor@hamilton.ca>>; Ward 2 <<mailto:ward2@hamilton.ca>>

Subject: Concern Regarding Proposed Vape Tax

Dear Mayor Andrea Horwath,

I am writing to express my strong concern regarding the proposed new tax on vaping products in Hamilton.

As someone who successfully transitioned from smoking to vaping as a teenager, I can say firsthand that affordable, flavored e-liquids were what kept me away from cigarettes — both then and now as an adult. The idea that flavors primarily attract teenagers to nicotine products ignores the powerful role they play in helping adult smokers switch away from deadly tobacco products.

Adding yet another layer of taxation on top of the existing Ontario tax and federal excise tax will make vaping products prohibitively expensive, pushing people toward black market options or, worse, back to smoking cigarettes. Many people already know someone who goes to the native reservation for cheaper cigarettes, and increasing vape prices will only amplify this trend.

I urge you to reconsider this policy. If the goal is to reduce smoking-related harm, making safer alternatives less accessible is a step in the wrong direction.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
David Blakeney

[Redacted Signature]