From:	Mirtha Becerra
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject:	Fwd: End the sale of flavored tobacco
Date:	Monday, October 12, 2020 3:14:49 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Caroline Lonski <clonski@bigsky.net>
> **Date:** October 12, 2020 at 8:59:38 AM MDT
> **To:** Mirtha Becerra <MBecerra@ci.missoula.mt.us>
> **Subject: End the sale of flavored tobacco**
> **Reply-To:** Caroline Lonski <clonski@bigsky.net>
>
> Dear Ms. Becerra,
>
> As your constituent, I'm writing to ask you to end the sale of all flavored tobacco products in Missoula. This includes flavored e-cigarettes, which are fueling a youth nicotine addiction crisis – and menthol cigarettes, which the tobacco industry has long used to lure kids, particularly in communities of color.
>
> Fueled by thousands of flavors, from gummy worm and cotton candy to mint and mango, youth e-cigarette use remains at epidemic levels. The latest CDC data shows that 3.6 million U.S. kids, including 1 in 5 high school students are vaping. An overwhelming majority of them say flavors are why.
>
> Meanwhile, menthol makes it easier to start smoking and harder to quit. Due to tobacco industry targeting, seven out of ten African-American youth smokers and 57% of Hispanic youth smokers smoke menthol cigarettes. In addition, flavored little cigars – in grape, chocolate, etc. – make up more than half of the U.S. cigar market.
>
> And now, health experts are warning that smoking and vaping can worsen COVID-19.
>
> We must put a stop to this, protect our kids, and make our city a leader in Montana. Please do everything you can to make sure all flavored tobacco products are off the shelves without exception.
>
> Sincerely,
> Caroline Lonski
> 1525 Tamarack Street
> Missoula, MT 59802