

**DRAFT LETTER OF SUPPORT:
RECOMMENDED BY PUBLIC SAFETY STANDING COMMITTEE ON
02/20/19**

March 4, 2019

The Honorable Jerry Hill
California State Senate, 13th District
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED STATE LEGISLATION:

- **Senate Bill 38 (Hill) - Flavored Tobacco Products; and**
- **Senate Bill 39 (Hill) - Age Verification for Tobacco Delivery**

Dear State Senator Hill:

On behalf of the City of San Pablo City Council, I am providing this letter of support for the following proposed state legislation from your office as approved by the San Pablo City Council at its regular meeting held on March 4, 2019, as follows:

- 1) **Senate Bill 38 (Hill):** Proposes to prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products in retail stores and vending machines: and
- 2) **Senate Bill 39 (Hill):** Proposes to impose new age verification requirements for tobacco products sold on-line or through the mail.

On December 17, 2018, the San Pablo City Council voted to adopt an ordinance to prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products city-wide, including menthol and e-cigarettes; to establish a minimum pack size of 6 for cigars, cigarillos and little cigars; and, to establish a minimum price for cigars of \$10 per cigar. The City's newly adopted ordinance goes into effect this March 2019.

In San Pablo, our focus is to reduce the sale of unhealthy tobacco product that is marketed to children, with the aim of getting them addicted to harmful flavored tobacco. With a total geographic area of 2.4 sq. miles, there are between 30 and 50 tobacco retailers who currently sell tobacco product within City limits. Of them, 28 of these retailers are within 1,000 feet of six (6) San Pablo schools.

We applaud these two (2) proposed bills, which if adopted by the State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Newsom, would dramatically reverse the alarming increase in flavored tobacco use among minors, and would curtail the use of tobacco products in general state-wide which contributes to the socio-economic disparities and health in local communities.

Thank you for your leadership on this important public health topic, and the City of San Pablo supports your legislative efforts.

Sincerely,

Rich Kinney, Mayor
City of San Pablo