

**COMMITTEES**

CHAIR: HEALTH

BUDGET

INSURANCE

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES**SELECT COMMITTEES**

HEALTHCARE ACCESS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

CRAFT BREWING AND DISTILLING

SEA LEVEL RISE IN CALIFORNIA

# Assembly California Legislature

**JIM WOOD**

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

**STATE CAPITOL**

P.O. BOX 942849

SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0002

(916) 319-2002

FAX (916) 319-2102

**DISTRICT OFFICES**

200 S SCHOOL STREET, SUITE D

UKIAH, CA 95482

(707) 463-5770

FAX (707) 463-5773

50 D STREET, SUITE 450

SANTA ROSA, CA 95404

(707) 576-2526

FAX (707) 576-2297

1036 5TH STREET, SUITE D

EUREKA, CA 95501

(707) 445-7014

FAX (707) 455-6607

October 22, 2020

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors  
501 Low Gap Road Room 1010  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Chair Haschak and Board Members:

I'm writing in support of the proposed Tobacco Retail License ordinance submitted to you by the Mendocino County Tobacco Control program.

Youth usage of flavored tobacco products has exploded in recent years due to kid friendly flavors like cotton candy and bubblegum. In 2018, 3.6 million middle and high school students started using e-cigarettes and the number continued to rise in 2019 with the overwhelming majority of young people citing use of popular fruit and menthol or mint flavors. In the last two years alone, e-cigarette use among youth surged by 135% and now 5.3 million young Americans use e-cigarettes regularly. 80% of these kids started with a flavored product. Masking the harshness of tobacco does one thing - gets users started on a dangerous life-long addiction.

Last year, I was one of the authors of SB 793 which prohibits the sale of all flavored tobacco and flavor enhancer products in California. When the Governor signed it into law, the tobacco companies that lost the battle submitted a referendum to overturn it to the Attorney General and if they collect the requisite number of signatures by November 30, 2020, it can qualify for the 2022 ballot and implementation of SB 793 would be suspended until decided by the voters.

In the meantime, I am pleased that Mendocino County is considering joining the more than 20 municipalities in the region that have banned these products. In addition to the ban, the Tobacco Retail License will bring tobacco sales in Mendocino County into a uniform set of regulations designed to protect youth and assure that the laws surrounding tobacco sales are observed and enforced.

I strongly support this proposal and any efforts Mendocino County takes to curb youth tobacco usage. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

JIM WOOD

Assemblymember, 2<sup>nd</sup> District