

February 23, 2017

Honorable <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>
Commissioner, <<District>>
Lane County Board of Commissioners
125 E 8th Ave
Eugene, OR 97401

Dear Commissioner <<Last Name>>:

We support the work being done statewide to reduce the number of youth using tobacco and non-cigarette tobacco products.

However, we are writing today in opposition to an amendment to Ordinance NO: 17-10, which raises the smoking purchase and possession age to 21+ but grandfathers in individuals who are 18 as of April 13, 2017. While we understand the intent is to not penalize those who are currently smoking, the grandfather clause will cause confusion for tobacco purchasers and implementation and compliance issues for retailers.

- **Implementation.** Retailers do not have a process to easily identify or handle a type of transaction that includes multiple variables for age restrictions for the purchase of tobacco products.
- **Customer confusion.** Per the ordinance, required signage states *"The sale or provision of tobacco products, tobacco paraphernalia, and electronic smoking devices to persons under the age of 21 is prohibited by law."* By grandfathering in some 18 years olds we are creating confusion for your constituents and our customers as to whether or not they are allowed to purchase tobacco products.
- **Puts retail employees at risk.** The ordinance includes financial penalties, and possible criminal charges, against retail employees who have even one violation of the ordinance. The grandfather clause creates barriers for compliance by having multiple age variables for purchase.

If the intent of the grandfather clause is to not penalize youth who are currently smoking, this can be accomplished through a grandfather clause for *possession* of tobacco products. On behalf of retailers across Lane County, we ask that the grandfather clause for the purchase of tobacco products by 18-20 years olds be removed from the legislation.

Sincerely,