



DAVID J. CANEPA
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

July 17, 2019

Mayor Karyl Matsumoto
South San Francisco City Hall
400 Grand Ave
South San Francisco, Ca. 94080

Dear Mayor Matsumoto,

I am pleased to hear that South San Francisco is considering adopting an ordinance to prohibit sales of flavored tobacco products.

As you may know, Supervisor Carole Groom and I spearheaded the effort to remove flavored tobacco products from unincorporated San Mateo County. We hoped that after the ordinance was adopted, other jurisdictions would follow suit.

Choosing to adopt a full flavored tobacco ban was difficult at times due to the pushback we received from tobacco retailers. The retailers argued that these products, particularly vape products, aren't being sold to youth and that 21 and over tobacco shops should be allowed to sell these products. However, I and the rest of the Board of Supervisors decided to move forward with completely removing these products from unincorporated San Mateo County, because these products aren't safe for anyone and they don't belong in our community.

There was a push to try and find a balance between the health of our citizens and the desires of business owners, but again we knew that anything other than a full flavored tobacco ban would only lead to the adoption of an ineffective health policy, and ultimately more young lives lost to tobacco.

Thank you again for taking on this effort. We are available if you have specific questions about the county's ordinance. We also encourage you contact the county's Tobacco Prevention Program if you need any flavored tobacco research data and/or educational materials.

In friendship,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David J. Canepa".

DAVID J. CANEPA
San Mateo County Supervisor