

October 30, 2014

To:

Leo Glavine, NS Health Minister

Stephen MacNeil, NS Premier

Nova Scotia Legislature

NS Public Health Office

I am very concerned about the industry response and pressure to new legislation on tobacco regulations. I applaud our government for not only doing what is right, but what is necessary to protect Nova Scotians now and into the future. I congratulate you on this initiative and strongly encourage you to remain steadfast to the proposed bill despite industry and public pressure. Doing what is right is not always easy.

I found this commentary and petition plea on change.org (Nick Flynn) and believe that for this to present factual information and not be misleading, it should be revised as follows (I have highlighted my insertions in blue):

Do not Amend Bill 60, **and continue to prevent** the ban on flavored e-liquid! We ask that you **protect** us, the public, and restrict the freedom to choose **any** delivery method for nicotine. Vaping **is not better**, and is by and large **still very dangerous** for the public, both first-hand AND second-hand, **similar or maybe moreso** than tobacco cigarettes; **do the right thing and** limit access to **this- there is no evidence this is** a safer alternative!

The Nova Scotia Government is **showing great care and responsibility for the wellbeing of our citizens by** imposing stifling regulations and restrictions on electronic cigarettes and our vaping privileges! To class e-cigs along with traditional cigarettes, forcing vapers themselves to be exposed to second hand smoke, and classify vaping as tobacco, banning all of our flavors except menthol **is the right thing to do. Tobacco consumption** is seriously affecting our **health** and our most basic rights **to be protected from known, dangerous consumption industries who seek hide their insidious marketing behind values based statements about taking away our rights and freedoms** not only as citizens of our country but as human beings. We all know tobacco kills, **and we do not have any proof or reason to believe that** we have a safer alternative to smoking

traditional tobacco cigarettes. The "lack of research" these policy makers claim about in fact does exist – in the form of **unreliable, biased** independent studies conducted **that** seem to indicate nothing but positives! **This is a bill about health which is closely tied to our economic prosperity, therefore the fact that** all of the vape shops here in Nova Scotia are locally owned small businesses, run by real people who have invested their blood, sweat, tears and finances into their shops **is irrelevant**. Should this bill pass, many of those businesses, who are generating tax revenue and keeping money here in Nova Scotia, will be forced to close their doors. **This is a small price to pay in comparison with the costs to the health care system.**

This is much bigger than just our rights to vape- this boils down to maintaining our basic god-given rights to enjoy a healthier lifestyle, **which must not include access to nicotine in our environment!** Together we can create change, together we can create awareness, and together we can enjoy being healthier and living longer **where e-cigarettes, hookas, and flavored tobacco products are not harming our children and youth.**

Sincerely,



Leah Poirier,

