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Sent: Monday, March 03, 2025 10:56 AM EST
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Subject: Oppose the Generational Tobacco Ban

To the Bellingham Board of Health, Select Board, and Town Administrator,
My name is Emily Wieja, and I live in Cambridge, MA. I feel I have to write to
you in opposition to the Generational Tobacco
Ban (Nicotine Free Generation Proposal). I know that paid tobacco control
activists have coordinated this policy proposal,
and it will continue to be raised in different communities and towns in
Massachusetts. If I do not oppose the proposal now, it
will be proposed in Cambridge next.

I oppose this policy because it proposes restricting adults' freedom to choose
for themselves. Massachusetts has already
raised the legal age to purchase tobacco products to 21, the same age to buy
alcohol. There is no need to increase the
legal age further.

Do we, in Massachusetts, believe that it is the place of public health to place
bans on things like alcohol, marijuana, and
gambling? These are all choices that we've seen fit to allow adult consumers to
make for themselves. If we place a ban on
the ability to purchase tobacco and other nicotine-containing products, we are
saying it is ok to dictate adult lifestyle choices,
and there will be no end to it.

I also want to mention the negative consequences that will result. Adult and
teen smoking rates are at an all-time low, but
this will lead to a needless increase in black market crime, increased cost of
enforcement and policing, inequitable
enforcement, and loss of convenience store revenue.

Are we going to control what adults do to this extent? I ask you not to consider
this policy. It might be helpful for you also to
consider that recently, the Peabody MA Board of Health voted against this
proposal and decided not to enact it.

Best wishes,

