

Clerk to Bills Committee on Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2019
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Chairman,

**Re: Bills Committee: Regulate Alternative Tobacco Products Instead of Ban
Urging for a Proper Public Consultation**

I am writing this letter to express my views regarding the government's proposal to ban alternative tobacco products and e-cigarettes. In my view, regulation is a sensible approach than an authoritarian ban.

As a non-smoker and a soon-to-be father, of course I do not like inhaling second hand smoke from combustible cigarettes nor do I want my future kids to pick up the habit of smoking. However, as a HongKonger who is proud of the city's freedom of speech and free market, government should not take away the freedom of choice from the existing smokers.

Personally, I have smoker friends in my social circle, I have noticed that many of them have switched to alternative tobacco products such as IQOS in the past three years. These products do not emit nasty second hand smoke and has minimal impact to people around them. To my surprise, my smoker friends no longer cough after they have switched to IQOS. As a witness, I would say these products are still harmful but a far better alternative than combustible cigarettes.

History have shown technology and innovation can change humanity and improve people's lives, such as the energy industry, automotive industry, and pharmaceutical industry. The Hong Kong government has been criticized being traditional and lack of innovation, I urge the government be more considerate. Rather than banning, regulate these new tobacco products as regulating will provide a choice for existing smokers and create positive externalities to the society.

Given the free market condition, whenever there is demand, there will be supply, people can still access them from illegal channels after the ban so stop being naïve and ignorant.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,
Brian Stone
Hong Kong Citizen