

4th April, 2019

To: Mr. Kwok (Chairman)

Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2019 (To Bills Committee)

I am writing to express my concern on government decision of a total ban on heated tobacco products. As a non-smoker, I urge the government to regulate the product instead of imposing a total ban.

I live in Ngau Tau Kok, an aging district with high smoking incident. Every day when I walk to and from MTR station, I am always bothered by the second handed smoke on the street. I understand that it is their own right of smoking, and it should be respected. However, if there is an alternative product which can solve this problem, wouldn't it be a win-win situation for smokers and non-smokers to live harmoniously together?

Heated tobacco products might not be risk free, yet there are many evidences showing that it is at least an innovation better than traditional cigarette. Our government claimed that "innovation" is one of their mission and vision for the city, why does it not reflected in the policy making? If heated tobacco products are banned, what is the government proposal to balance the right and interest between smokers and non-smokers? What is the logic behind this decision?

The government owe us an explanation and evidence to support the decision. Therefore I urge the government not to make a hasty decision. Regulate the product first, conduct more researches and decide what is best for Hong Kong.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours Sincerely

Sonia Ko