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To Mr Kwok Wai Keung

Reference No:

Name: Balazs Szabo

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

Hi Committee Member

My name is Bob, and I am a smoker. Since the launch of the heat not burn product in Japan, I have started using it and honestly I feel better using the new heat not burn product in terms of smell and my health.

Before I tried this, I also look it up this product and I understand there are also independent clinical and research studies that show heat not burn product potentially have 90-95% harm reduction compared to conventional cigarettes.

I m so surprised that HK government can suddenly propose to ban the sale of heat not burn product without any consultation to the public. What is the rationale of complete ban? If it is because of attraction to minors, why not regulate? If minors want to get the product, doesn't matter it is ban or regulate. But the proposal from HK government will only kill the freedom of choice for all the existing smokers.

Recently I travelled back to my home country in Europe and I can see IQOS shops everywhere and a lot of people using them. I believe Hong Kong is a developed country and the government always claim that they encourage new technology, I do not understand why on this topic Hong Kong is going backward and be so conservative. Instead of trying to achieve a win win situation by regulating the new products for both non-smokers and smokers and the public, the government is just trying to shut the door and don't listen to what the public want to say.

To conclude, I sincerely hope the government can regulate instead of ban. Thank you.