

Date: 4 April 2019

To: Mr. Kwok Wai Keung

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

Dear Chairman,

I am troubled by the recent efforts of the Hong Kong Government to ban heated tobacco products. I am an Australian who has had the privilege of living in Hong Kong for a number of years now. I am writing to you because I used to be a smoker.

In late 2017 I had the opportunity to move to Korea for 13 months, during which time I converted to using heated tobacco products. For me the affects were noticeable immediately. Not only did I feel the physically better, but the social aspect of using a product that does not cause harm to others allowed me to spend more time with my friends who are non-smokers. Today I am happy to say I am a non-smoker. I believe this transition would not have been possible if I was not offered the choice for a better solution.

Although I am now a non-smoker, I still have many friends who are. Over time many of these friends have converted to heated tobacco products but are forced to either get these products from overseas, or buy from the black market here in Hong Kong. I feel this is ridiculous considering these products are legal and available in many other countries around the world. (ie. Canada, UK, New Zealand, Korea, etc..)

The Hong Kong Government would essentially be taking away the consumers right to choose a product that is not only better for them, but also for others around them. In my view, this would also limit their options to quit, if they chose to.

I trust the Hong Kong Government will make the right decision that will be to the benefit of smokers and non-smokers alike. I strongly urge the Government to regulate these products instead of making the mistake of banning them.

Regards,

Nathan Golding Marcelo  
Reference #: 500E2AB3

*N. Marcelo*

---