

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 to express my opinion on the recently proposed ban on alternative tobacco products. It came to me as a shock when the government proposed a complete ban of these products in Hong Kong, a city which is striving to become Asia's World City. These alternative tobacco products represents innovation and technology to improve people's lives. The proposed ban on these products will not only prohibits people's right to select a better product, but a step backwards towards the wellbeing of public health. I strongly encourage the government to reconsider this ban and implement a set of regulations on these products for Hong Kong.

As a father myself, I foresee the benefits of smokers switching to these alternate tobacco products. These products do not produce an off-putting smell which degrades air quality and linger in people's clothes. Considering that there is no fire, there is no risk of a cigarette butt burning my child on the streets.

As a Hong Kong citizen, what do I foresee if we regulate the product instead of banning? I can see many smokers changing over to these alternate tobacco products. The government continues its social campaign to prohibit the sale of tobacco products to youth. Parents continues their responsibilities to educate their children on the risks of smoking. Both sides working together with better alternatives in the market will improve public health for the next generation.

What happens if the government impose a ban on these products? Smokers on the streets will continue to exhale second hand smoke, forcing non-smokers to avoid certain areas or pathways. Social problems related to traditional cigarettes will remain for the next generation. There will be a blooming industry of illegal alternative tobacco products in the market, with easy access to the youth. Smokers who have already switched to alternative products are forced to return to traditional cigarettes and continues to burden the public health system.

Please reconsider this ban and take a neutral stance for the people of Hong Kong. Regulating the product is a step towards improving the city's public health and strengthen Hong Kong as an innovative city. This is an opportunity for us and the government to make a decisive change of direction to tobacco in Hong Kong. Please do not miss this opportunity.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,
Alex Cheung
Hong Kong Citizen