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

Legislative Council Secretariat

Legislative Council Complex

1 Legislative Council Road

Central, Hong Kong

April 2/2019

Dear Mr. WK Kwok (Chairman),

Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2019

To Bills Committee Members

I am writing to express my views regarding to the proposed ban on heated tobacco products. I believe these products should be regulated and available in Hong Kong.

I understand that Hong Kong Government has challenges in finding a balanced solution with the majority of Hong Kong people being non-smokers. However, as I am a smoker, I think my views should be properly considered as well. I am a traditional cigarette smoker, but I understand other smokers want a choice of these new heated tobacco products.

Although I am a traditional cigarettes smoker, my friends around me have already switched to these heated tobacco products. I can see there is better impact to other non-smokers since there is no lingering smell. As such, the non-smokers friends and especially their family members are much happier.
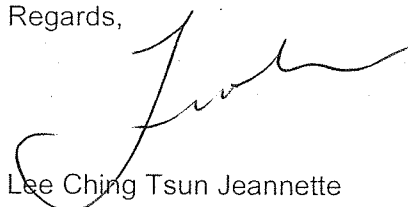
I don't understand why the government want to ban these heated tobacco products.

Personally, I am a strong believer of freedom of choice, especially in places like Hong Kong. Smokers should be given the freedom of choice to choose the product they prefer, especially it is proven to be a better alternative. These products are already sold in Japan, Korea and Malaysia and many other countries around the world. Why can't the Hong Kong Government allow the Smokers the right to choose for themselves, just like these countries?

The Government needs to listen to the voices and concerns of the Hong Kong people (both smokers and non-smokers) and we deserve to be heard and be consulted regarding this matter through a proper Public Consultation.

As such, we would like the Hong Kong Government to regulate these heated tobacco products in Hong Kong, instead of ban.

Regards,

Lee Ching Tsun Jeannette

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