

**FW: Regarding Council Bill 26-2015**

Clay, Mary

**Sent:** Thursday, July 30, 2015 11:55 AM**To:** Feldmark, Jessica; Sayers, Margery; councilrecords

Regarding CB28-2015.

**Mary T. Clay | Special Assistant to Council Chairperson Mary Kay Sigaty**

Howard County Council, District 4

3430 Court House Drive | Ellicott City, MD 21043

Office: 410.313.2001 | Fax: 410.313.3297

**From:** Keith K [mailto:mayorkelley@gmail.com]**Sent:** Thursday, July 30, 2015 11:26 AM**To:** Weinstein, Jon; Smith, Gary; Ball, Calvin B; Pruum, Kimberly; Terrasa, Jen; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Clay, Mary; Fox, Greg; Knight, Karen**Subject:** Regarding Council Bill 26-2015

To the Howard County Council,

I am a 55 year old native resident of Ellicott City, born and raised here since 1960. I wanted to share my thoughts with regard to 26-2015, a proposal to ban indoor use of a vape device. I will be brief.

I smoked for some 35+ years. During that time, I attempted to quit with every method possible, but failed at each. I am proud to say today, I quit the first day I picked up a vape device. Within 1 week, I knew I would no longer be going back to smoking cigarettes. You just can't imagine the level of elation and freedom. My breathing and physical fitness level have improved significantly.

Over the many decades I have lived here, HoCo has always embraced innovative thinking and disruptive technology. I could point out examples from the concept behind Columbia's inception, to the NotifyMeHoward system. The creation of an indoor vaping ban goes against our principles, including the promotion of better public health. Vaping helps save lives like mine, and the research continues to show great promise as we learn more.

I would be happy to cite studies and research completed by well known entities such as Drexel University, Boston University, Commonwealth of Virginia and other PhD's within the medical community to support my position. Currently, research has clearly demonstrated vaping is not a threat to public health.

I understand there is an enormous amount of information both for, and against this technology. Politics, money and special interests on both sides of the argument are clouding good and reasonable judgement. But the industry has done something big tobacco and pharma companies have been unable to accomplish. I believe we need to give this opportunity a chance, and I believe an indoor ban would completely do more harm than good.

The irony of this pending action is not lost on me. If a ban is passed, I must go outside with cigarette smokers, subjecting myself to the harm of 2nd hand tobacco smoke I'm currently protected from. This makes no sense to me on any level.

I would respectfully ask the Council to table this bill and resubmit a proposal based on allowing a business owners to determine indoor vapor use policy.

Regards,

Keith Kelley  
10215 Feaga Farm Ct.  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
410-382-1927