

Good Morning Chairman Freiberg and Members of the Committee.

My name is Kim Murray. I reside in Brainerd. I am a tobacco harm reduction advocate. Thank-you for giving me the privilege of expressing my opposition to HF904.

I used flavored vapor products to quit smoking 6 years ago. 3 generations of my family have used these products to end a multi-generation addiction to smoking cigarettes. My great - grandchildren are the 1st generation in my family to be growing up in a smoke free home!!

There is no tobacco in a vapor product. Any of those products with the taste or smell of tobacco have been artificially flavored to resemble the taste of tobacco. I never found one that tasted like a real cigarette to me. Something was missing and they made me crave a real cigarette.

Flavors are important to smoking cessation. This is why nicotine replacement products like gum, lozenges, and inhalers come in flavors. None of those products come in a tobacco flavor. Vapor products may not be FDA approved as a smoking cessation product, but Minnesota's medical marijuana is a shining example of where sometimes it's necessary for a state to go outside of FDA guidance for the benefit of its citizens. The vapor products sold at local vape shops are mostly products made by small businesses, not big tobacco. They are the consumer solution to the tobacco problem and they work!

For me, the best way to avoid relapsing back to smoking cigarettes is to avoid the taste or smell of tobacco. This makes sense. I think society would consider it cruel if we forced a person recovering from Alcoholism to drink a beverage that was artificially flavored like booze. We'd certainly be dangling the carrot of temptation in front of the nose of that person. If that is logical for people dealing with addictions to alcohol, wouldn't the same logic apply to a person addicted to smoking?

What makes something taste like tobacco? Who's going to make that statutory determination? Do we go by what's in a cigarette that gives it its flavor? I've enclosed in my written testimony a list of the ingredients used in cigarettes. I didn't have time to look up all the ingredients with chemical names to see if they were flavoring, but you will see things like chocolate, vanilla, cinnamon, fruit, alcoholic beverages, herbs and spices in those ingredients. They are part of what makes a tobacco cigarette taste and smell like tobacco. Those flavors are listed in the prohibited flavors in HF904. Does this bill ban cigarettes? If a "tobacco flavor" has a vanilla in it, where is the line between it being classified as a tobacco flavor and it being classified as a vanilla flavor? We are all unique with our own sense of taste and smell. If I can't taste the vanilla and you can in my "tobacco" product, is it "flavored" or not? This will be an issue not only for the vapor market, but also for premium cigars.

Banning flavored vapor products will have the unintended consequence of devaluing the lives of the adults who depend on these products to quit smoking. Those adults deserve the safer alternative that vapor technology offers. The families of those adults deserve healthy, smoke

free family members. Because vaping helps people quit smoking and saves lives, I oppose HF904 and pray you'll do the same.

Thank-you for your time.