

## McDonald, David S

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**From:** info@straitvapor.com  
**Sent:** November-03-14 5:46 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Submission regarding Bill 60  
**Attachments:** NSLAC\_letter\_SV\_PH.pdf

**Importance:** High

Please provide the following attachment to your committee members for consideration.

Thank you, Tanya

Nov 3, 2014

Dear committee members,

We regret that we were unable to attend the amendment hearings today on Bill 60 on account of the driving conditions en-route. We want to be sure that our voice is heard and hope that the committee will make an informed decision when considering changes to the proposed regulations.

We thank the province for making a positive move to ban the sale of e-cigarettes to minors and the use of e-cigarettes in public spaces. These amendments we support although we feel they should not be included under tobacco legislation, since vaping is only similar to smoking in appearance. We feel that the ban in public spaces removes the risk of renormalizing the appearance of smoking and will be effective in meeting this goal. Most vape shops like ours are already restricted to persons over 19 yrs. and do not try to appeal or serve those who have never smoked or youth. We also care about the health of our youth and communities as well. We would be happy to work with our legislators to develop appropriate legislation specific to this unique product.

Should Bill 60 pass, we strongly encourage you to remove the proposed ban of flavored e-liquid for the following reasons:

- E-cigarettes are not palatable without flavoring, without flavoring vape shop owners have nothing to sell. This legislation will put over 100 people out of work across Nova Scotia as a direct result. This does not include spinoffs. In Port Hawkesbury we are one of a handful of small businesses left and one of only two new business to open this year in the town. The province is full of vacant retail space, this regulation needs to consider the economic reality of this decision.
- This business has given us the opportunity as a young Nova Scotians' to stay in the province and create employment. While the vast majority of others in our age groups have moved away. If new legislation passes it will force myself and my partners to leave the province as there are limited opportunities here to recoup losses this closure will create. I am sure other vape shop owners feel the same way.
- Vape shops in Nova Scotia are not associated with big tobacco and do not sell the e-cigarette products recently acquired by the tobacco industry. The advertisements now appearing on US TV for Blu and other brands are owned by Imperial Tobacco –US division. To my knowledge, NS vape shops do not sell these or promote in this fashion (to look or be like smoking). Our products are purchased from manufacturers with no affiliation with big tobacco. Imperial US and others only entered the industry recently due to fears over lost sales and revenue. Closing local retailers with no affiliation will make smoking more appealing to people who vape and have a positive effect on the tobacco industry. Placing vaping under tobacco legislation simply hands the industry over to big tobacco making it easier for them to be more involved. I am sure Imperial Tobacco Canada will welcome these changes along with their exception to menthol.
- Flavored e-liquid is readily available on-line, this ban will do nothing to stop Nova Scotians' from accessing it. Furthermore it will only then be available in a non-regulated environment, easily

accessible to anyone including minors. This ban will provide no options for consumers locally, closing businesses here at home.

- Making exception to big tobacco to include menthol or continuing to allow the sale and promotion of flavored alcohol leaves distrust in the public as to the true motivating factors behind this decision.
- Smoking and vaping are not the same, in fact they are in opposition to each other. This industry has grown because it provides a viable alternative to smoking that works, where other options to quit have failed. We have never had a customer who is not a current or former smoker and the majority are over 35 yrs. old.
- An e-cigarette is a personal device, it is not shared like cigarettes or in individual units. The average cost to start vaping is \$90-\$100, and this alone is prohibitive to youth, unlike smoking.
- The use of flavors gives smokers an alternative that does not remind them of smoking, removing them further from the use of cigarettes.

We hope you will consider this rationale and remove the proposed ban on the sale of flavored e-liquid. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,

Ashley Burns/owner/operator

Tanya Felix/owner

Kevin Burns/owner

Lisa Montrose/owner

Todd Montrose/owner

StraitVapor-Port Hawkesbury, NS