

Thank you for the opportunity to speak out on such an important issue. I'm an x-smoker, For 37 years I smoked. Trying to quit was hard, I tried the nicotine patch, gum and even chantix. These products did not help, one day 8years ago I was introduced to a vape pen/ecig and my life was changed and I believe saved forever. My doctor says my lungs look good! My health over all for being 60 is good. I just can't understand why we are demonizing the vape technology when scientist around the world have proven that vape is better than cigarettes. We now have strong laws in place similar to alcohol that you must be 21 years old to purchase tobacco. If we just enforce these laws similar to the way we police youth alcohol use we should at least take a bite out of youth tobacco use. Please consider the impact a tax would have? You are sending adults back to cigarettes, you are saying that we don't matter as much as kids. As an adult I should have available a cost effective product that is considered less harmful then cigarettes. By taxing vaper products higher than cigarettes you are sending the wrong message to smokers considering vape as a less expensive way to quit cigarettes. Please do not continue to treat the adult vaper as a third class citizen. Give us the freedom and choice that we deserve as U.S. citizens. Thank for your time in this matter.

Best regards,

*Victor Flava*