



Plumas County Public Health Agency

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Plumas County Board of Supervisors

520 Main Street

Quincy, CA 95971

Dear Board Members,

I'm writing to share my support for the proposed Plumas County Tobacco Retail Licensing policy. As a physician and health officer I am a daily witness to the harms of tobacco use including ill health and early death.

Tobacco use in youth is highly predictive of subsequent adult use partly due to the addictive nature of the nicotine it contains. Effectively limiting access of youth to tobacco products is a proven means of reducing lifelong tobacco use and dependency. Stop the habit before it starts.

Despite adequate enforcement efforts, existing law has not been effective in preventing retail access to tobacco products for those less than 18 years of age in our county. Political leaders share in the responsibility to take steps to limit access of our youth to addictive substances likely to harm them.

Tobacco users have poorer health and shorter life, but there is also a high cost to society as a whole in the form of lost productivity, burden to the healthcare system, and the higher healthcare insurance costs we all share. The direct and indirect costs of tobacco use amounts to almost \$700 a year for each Plumas County resident according to American Lung Association estimates.

We must take more effective action to limit youth access to tobacco products in Plumas County. This is why I strongly support the proposed Tobacco Retail Licensing policy.

Sincerely,

Mark Satterfield, MD

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Satterfield, MD".