



**Plumas County Office of Education**  
Plumas Unified School District  
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**Laura S. Blesse**  
Director  
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April 5, 2016

Plumas County Board of Supervisors  
520 Main Street  
Quincy, CA 95971

**Dear Plumas County Board of Supervisors,**

As the county office of education's Prevention Education Coordinator, I strongly support the proposed tobacco retail licensing policy. Youth in this county will continue to use tobacco unless access to it is actually restricted. Putting the responsibility of not selling tobacco to minors on the retailers themselves will reduce access and subsequently use of tobacco by our county's youth.

One of my duties is to administer the California Healthy Kids Survey every two years in Plumas County. The survey collects information about the climate in our schools and the district. Basically, the results give us indications on what we as a community need to work on in respect to our youth. One area in blatant need of concentration is tobacco use among youth.

In the last survey administered (2013-14 school year), 29 percent of Plumas County's 11th graders reported trying cigarettes, with 15 percent reporting current use. Forty-nine percent reported they thought cigarettes were "very easy to obtain." At first glance, it's perplexing how half the population views what is an illegal product to them to be "very easy to obtain." When you compare these findings with the 25 percent sales rate of the latest Youth Tobacco Purchase Surveys, however, it makes sense. The amount of tobacco sold to minors in Plumas County can be reduced if we take action. This is why, with the approval and full support of my direct supervisors, I write this letter to urge you to vote in favor of implementing the proposed tobacco retail licensing policy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sara Patrick".

**Sara Patrick**  
PCOE Prevention Coordinator

Governing Board of Trustees

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**Our mission is to collectively inspire every child in every classroom every day.**  
We ensure an exemplary education with diverse opportunities and we accept no limits on the learning potential of any child.