

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** mailagent@thesoftedge.com on behalf of tbedard@sbcglobal.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 9, 2025 4:28 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Please Vote No on the Proposed Filtered Tobacco Ban Ordinance

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Council:

Felton shell/pitstop

I am writing today to ask you to vote against the proposed filtered tobacco ban. While I understand the environmental goals behind this ordinance, it will create severe economic hardship for gas stations and convenience stores without solving the litter problem it's meant to address.

This ban would effectively eliminate cigarette sales since nearly all cigarettes contain filters. Tobacco revenue represents approximately 30% of most convenience store sales, but the economic impact goes much deeper. While in my store tobacco customers buy additional products including fuel, beverages, and snacks during the same transaction. When they can't buy tobacco in my store, they will take their entire shopping trip elsewhere. My customers will not have more than 300 stores within a 10-mile radius that they go to purchase filtered cigarettes and other items. This isn't a matter of customers substituting other products; it's a complete loss of business for my store and stores throughout Capitola.

I have been part of the Capitola community for years, and I'm deeply concerned about the employment implications for my staff. This loss of income from tobacco sales and other items will force me to make difficult decisions about staffing levels and operating hours. These are real jobs that support local families in our community.

I understand the intentions of this - I hate cigarettes and the harm and pollution they cause.

But all this ban will do is kill small businesses in the area. I fear I will lose my job or be severely cut in hours as cigarettes are a big chunk of our business.

If it was a blanket county or state ban to keep it a fair playing field for businesses then it would be different But this just drives our customers to Scott's valley or San Jose.

What's to stop all the commuters to the valley from buying and bringing in their filtered cigarettes into capitola and the county? All that does is take local revenues out of county "Peeing in the shallow end of the pool only" doesn't work.

Please save my job and deny the ban.

Rather than pursuing prohibition that will harm Capitola's local businesses without meaningful environmental benefit, I encourage the Council to consider these alternatives:

1. Install ash receptacles in strategic locations, which research shows increases proper disposal
2. Address all litter sources identified in local studies through education and waste management programs.
3. Develop comprehensive waste reduction initiatives that build on Capitola's environmental leadership while preserving business viability.

We all want a clean community, but we need solutions that work without putting people out of business. Please vote against this ban and help us find better approaches that work for both the environment and local jobs in Capitola.

Sincerely,

Tim Bedard  
Cashier  
Felton shell pit stop  
701 Getard Ct  
Santa Cruz , CA 95062