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## Support for “Ban the Butt” Ordinance (Agenda item c.)

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From Jackie Nunez <jackie.nunez@plasticpollutioncoalition.org>

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To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

**To: Capitola City Council**

**From: Jackie Nuñez, Founder of The Last Plastic Straw and Advocacy & Engagement Manager**

**Organization: Plastic Pollution Coalition**

**Subject: Support for “Ban the Butt” Ordinance (Agenda item c.)**

**Date: September 11, 2025**

Plastic Pollution Coalition (PPC) appreciates the opportunity to offer our comments to the Capitola City Council regarding the adoption of an ordinance to prohibit the sale of partially inconsumable tobacco products.

Cigarette butts are a major source of plastic pollution. The filters made of plastic cellulose acetate are a single-use plastic and are not biodegradable. While many believe they break down, they only break up into smaller plastic pieces and release toxic chemicals that continue to pollute the environment and harm wildlife for decades. Just one filter may shed an estimated 15,000 microplastic fibers.

Plastic cigarette filters don't make smoking safer. Instead, they encourage smokers to inhale more deeply and frequently, increasing the delivery of tobacco's cancer-causing chemicals.

Plastics contain any mixture of more than 16,000 chemicals, many of which have already been linked to numerous and severe human health problems, including autoimmune diseases, cancers, diabetes, infertility and other reproductive problems, obesity, and more.

Additionally, plastics don't break down, but instead break up into small microplastic and nanoplastic particles, which contaminate our air, food, soils, and waters, and invade our bodies. These plastic particles are also specifically linked to serious human health problems such as cancers, heart disease, neurodegenerative problems like Alzheimer's disease, respiratory problems like asthma, reproductive issues like increased risk of miscarriage, and more.

Health-related economic losses from the impacts of plastic throughout the human lifespan are estimated at greater than \$1.5 trillion per year, worldwide.

With trillions of cigarette butts polluting our planet annually and ranking as the top item found in coastal cleanups, it's clear we need to act. The World Health Organization has called on countries and cities to enact cigarette filter bans to protect public health and the environment. **Plastic Pollution Coalition (PPC) fully supports the continued leadership and responsible stewardship of the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary by the City of Capitola in the adoption of a policy that bans the sale of filtered, pre-rolled tobacco products including cigarettes, cigarillos, and little cigars, in the City of Capitola.**

*PPC is a U.S.-based non-profit communications and advocacy organization that collaborates with an expansive global alliance of organizations, businesses, and individuals to create a more just, equitable, regenerative world*

*free of plastic pollution and its toxic impacts.*

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🌐 Check out [Global Plastic Laws](#), a database to track plastic policies around the world 🌐