



BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

**Proclamation in Support of Restricting the Sale of
Flavored Tobacco Products**

Document No. 2024-648

WHEREAS Big Tobacco's use of candy flavors like bubblegum, blue raspberry, root beer, and minty menthol have an increased likelihood of attracting new and existing consumers – especially kids, students and other targeted groups – on the massive hits of nicotine their tobacco products can deliver; and

WHEREAS Big Tobacco expends substantial resources on lobbying efforts targeting consumers and sellers of the product; while at the same time the Surgeon General and the FDA have identified an "epidemic" of e-cigarette use across the nation; and

WHEREAS it is estimated that Big Tobacco annually spends many millions of dollars to market its products in Oregon; and

WHEREAS studies indicate that 10.8% of Oregon 11th grade students use e-cigarettes, and 5,000 Oregon kids under 18 try cigarettes for the first time each year; and

WHEREAS tobacco use can create a cycle of addiction that puts taxpayers – whether they smoke or not – on the hook for an estimated \$373.6 million in annual Medicaid costs caused by smoking in Oregon; and

WHEREAS each year, tobacco use is a significant factor in the death of approximately 8,000 Oregonians; nationally, the associated economic costs including medical expenses and lost productivity exceed \$5 billion; and

WHEREAS in 2022, 25% of tobacco retailers inspected in Oregon sold tobacco to underage buyers; and

WHEREAS nine of 10 adults who smoke report that they started smoking by 18;
and

WHEREAS two thirds of Oregon youth tobacco users use flavored tobacco
compared to about 26% of older adult tobacco users; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Deschutes County strongly encourages the Oregon
Legislature to pass legislation ending the sale of flavored tobacco products. This action
is necessary to protect our children, students and other targeted groups from starting or
continuing the use of candy-flavored and minty-menthol tobacco products.

Dated: July ____, 2024

Deschutes County Board of Commissioners

Patti Adair, Chair

Anthony DeBone, Vice-Chair

Phil Chang, Commissioner