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Subject: [EXTERNAL]Support for Tobacco Product Restriction from PHAC
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Dear Chairman Macek (Nathan),

On behalf of the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission (PHAC), I am pleased to share our support of the Virginia General Assembly's recently enacted legislation allowing local jurisdictions to restrict the sale of tobacco and related products near schools and day care facilities. We conveyed this support to City Council earlier this year.

We commend the Planning Commission for taking swift action to seek implementation of this new authority.

As you know, tobacco has profoundly negative effects, including its contributing to a wide range of health concerns. Over 90% of people who use tobacco started before the age of 18. The ordinance you are considering will help break this pattern and will help keep younger people from starting a potentially lifelong tobacco addiction.

We commend you for considering the proposed tobacco ordinance, and hope that you will approve it at your next meeting. Additionally, PHAC is happy to collaborate with you and others on this topic – don't hesitate to be in touch

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue,

Jerome R. Cordts, EdD
Chair, Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission

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