

April 10, 2019

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 424 (Jackson) – Tobacco Products: single-use and multiuse components

Dear Senator Jackson:

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto, we would like to express support for SB 424, which addresses tobacco product waste, a known human and environmental health hazard. We thank you for your leadership and acknowledgment of the health, environmental, and financial implications of this type of waste.

Cigarette butts (also called filters) are one of the most prevalent forms of plastic litter found at Palo Alto's creek cleanup events and a ubiquitous litter source on streets. Removing this litter represents City and volunteer time and taxpayer expense. In addition, the State's Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit (MRP) requirements mandate cities meet a 100% stormwater litter reduction requirement (or no adverse impact) by 2022. Meeting this target will be most difficult to achieve without legislation such as SB 424, which require manufacturers eliminate the filters over time. As you know, pollution prevention is far less expensive than end-of-life capture devices and clean-up, which does not capture the chemical contaminants released by the pollution from tobacco waste.

SB 424 would provide a significant shift in the right direction to reduce litter, protect waterways, and help local governments meet the challenging MRP requirements. As such, the City of Palo Alto supports your bill.

Sincerely,



Eric Filseth
Mayor, City of Palo Alto

Cc: Members, Senate Health Committee
Members, Senate Environmental Quality
Senator Jerry Hill
Assemblyman Marc Berman
Palo Alto City Council
Ed Shikada, Palo Alto City Manager