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From: michaelwpeltier@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 8:16 PM
To: Pullano, Paula (RIDOH)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Public comments about ends

There are many potentially dangerous products for sale right now at both local and nationwide retail stores in the state of Rhode Island. These potentially dangerous products all pose some sort of health concern with prolonged usage and furthermore, many are purposely marketed toward young adults and older teen demographics and those products distributors and suppliers rely on these demographics to throw caution to the wind and continue to use those products. Of course I'm not speaking about electronic nicotine delivery systems, which do pose health concerns and already have regulations in place regarding who can purchase them. I'm speaking about the multitude of energy drink products, the thousands of food products with preservative ingredients that many cannot pronounce, and the carbonated high fructose-high sugar beverages that are consumed everyday. These products pose major health concerns like diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, and heart complications and yet any child with a couple of dollars can enter a grocery store and make these purchases without question. These products are specifically marketed toward young adults. Santa Claus is all over almost every can of Coca Cola from October until the new year. There are Endless amounts of energy drinks with designated "ailments" printed on the can to help "refuel" or aid in "focus" although having no scientific basis for those claims.

The point I'm trying to make is that virtually any product can be posed as a health concern, but it should fall on the consumer to do their due diligence and decide for themselves if they should disregard those health concerns. It should not be the governments or legislators responsibility to spend tax dollars and pass legislation that prohibits consumers from purchasing whatever products they want because of relatively unsubstantiated claims of health concerns. If this were the case then the government should have prohibited all soda products, high fructose corn syrup, and virtually everything, according to the legislators in the state of California, since most products, fabrics, and materials are known to them to cause cancer. If you start down this road who differentiates what should and should not be prohibited. Alcohol related deaths are at the top tier of causes of death in America and yet the prohibition of alcohol was repealed in 1933, and in the 13 years prohibition took place the bootlegging and organized crime business flourished. I shouldn't have to remind fellow Rhode Islanders how much more the organized crime would flourish now if you prohibit a product that has created a billion dollar industry and continues to have such a high demand.

Michael Peltier