

September 3, 2025

Town of Ross City Council
31 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Ross, California 94957

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

On behalf of the San Francisco Marin Medical Society (SFMMS) which represents the interests of approximately 3500 physician members practicing in San Francisco and Marin counties, I am writing to support The Youth Advocacy Committee's (YAC) request that the Council implement an 'Endgame Initiative,' designed to ban tobacco sales licenses in Ross.

We are pleased that Ross currently has no tobacco retailers within its jurisdiction and believe that it is essential that we take proactive steps to ensure that this remains the case. By taking this step, we can protect the health and well-being of all residents of Ross, particularly youth, both now and in the future. Limiting the availability of tobacco and nicotine products will contribute to a healthier environment, reduce the potential for youth exposure to these toxic substances, and reinforce Ross's commitment to public health and community well-being.

SFMMS, and the California Medical Association, of which SFMMS is a component society, have developed extensive policy about the detrimental effects of tobacco products. Tobacco use is a leading preventable cause of disease and death in the U.S., responsible for over 480,000 deaths annually, including 41,000 from secondhand smoke. Eliminating access to tobacco products would significantly reduce the incidence of lung cancer, heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and type 2 diabetes, among other smoking-related illnesses, as well as lower health care costs associated with treatment of health conditions related to use of tobacco products.

We strongly believe that keeping tobacco and nicotine products out of Ross is a critical step in safeguarding the future of the community. We urge you to consider the long-term benefits of such a policy and to act in support of a healthier, more vibrant Ross.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you might have. Conrad Amenta, Executive Director of SFMMS, can be reached at camenta@sfmms.org, or (415) 706-3161.

Sincerely,

Jason Nau, MD
2025 President, San Francisco Marin Medical Society