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Cc: Judith Mackay [REDACTED], Judith Mackay [REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, December 21, 2016 03:35PM
Subject: Letter of support

Dear member of Panel on Health Services.

I am writing this letter to support Hong Kong's proposed legislation on the 85% Pictorial health warning on cigarette packages.

I am an advisor to the Bureau of Tobacco Control, Department of Disease Control, MOPH. I had been involved in the drafting of the 85% pictorial health warning on cigarette package in 2013.

Although tobacco industries had filed suit to the Central Administrative Court, asking for an injunction and to rule that the regulation was illegal. The High Administrative Court had lifted the injunction and the regulation went into effect since September 2014.

India and Nepal follow Thailand 's lead, now India has 85% and Nepal has 90% pictorial health warning on their cigarette packages on the market.

The fact that EU Directives on Tobacco Control recommend plain packaging for member countries, and UN Secretary General call for country to implement plain packaging this past World No Tobacco Day, is a signal that tobacco industries argument that large size pictorial health warning infringe on trademark or intellectual property right is groundless.

Thus for country who are not ready to adopt plain packaging, large size pictorial health warning is the logical step.

I urge your honorable members to stand firm for the health of Hong Kong people, particularly the youth, to go ahead and pass the 85% pictorial health warning legislation. Hong Kong people deserve no less protection for their health than Thailand, India and Nepal.

I stand ready to answer any query on this regard.

Cordially.

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