





What you need to know about...

The CRST Commercial Tobacco Retail Policy

The Čanlí Coalition has drafted and proposed a Commercial Tobacco Retail Policy to help prevent commercial tobacco companies from targeting American Indians, especially youth. Below are more details on the proposed act.

If you have an opinion about this policy, TALK TO YOUR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES! Members of the Čanlí Coalition plan to present this policy to Tribal Council Summer 2022.

Proposed Change	Reason	Examples
Restrict the sales of all flavored tobacco products on CRST (including menthol)	Flavored tobacco, especially vapes, look and taste like candy to target our children and contributes to youth nicotine addictions. ¹ Youth are tricked into believing that flavored products are less harmful. ²	
Restrict the sales of tobacco products that misrepresent or target Native people with their names or imagery	Many tobacco companies misrepresent, exploit and target Native Americans. Some <u>falsely</u> advertise that their products are “natural” or “non-addictive” which may appeal to our tribal members. ³	
Add a 10% tribal tobacco tax to all commercial tobacco products	Raising prices on cigarettes is “ one of the most effective tobacco control interventions ” because higher prices reduce smoking, especially among kids. Even tobacco companies like RJ Reynolds have admitted that a 10% price increase reduces commercial tobacco sales to youth smokers by 11.9% ! ⁴	<p>In 2021, there was \$542,686 reported tobacco sales on CRST. A 10% tax on these sales would generate about...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$54,000</p> <p>of revenue annually for the tribe. For customers, this would mean a pack of cigarettes that currently costs \$6.00 would cost \$6.60 with the proposed 10% tax.</p>
\$250 annual licensing fee for retailers selling commercial tobacco products (similar to alcohol licensing)	Without a license, it would be difficult to enforce this policy. Failure to follow the policy can result in loss of license.	<p>If 16 tobacco retailers get a license to sell, this would generate...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$4,000</p> <p>of revenue annually for the tribe.</p>

Frequently Asked Questions

What would the revenue be used for?

- All profits from this policy would be reserved for commercial tobacco use cessation, prevention, or treatment programs and compliance/enforcement.

Is youth tobacco use even a problem on CRST?

- Yes! Commercial tobacco use (especially vaping) among young people on CRST is a problem! Four schools on CRST have reached out for vaping education and resources from the Čanlí Coalition within the last year.
- An assessment of 15 tobacco retailers on CRST in 2021 showed...
 - 5 had to refuse the sale of tobacco to someone they suspected was buying for a minor on a regular basis.
 - 12 sold flavored tobacco
 - 3 sold vapes, but all of them had a variety of flavored products
 - 12 managers believed restricting flavored tobacco sales would prevent underaged people from using.



Have other tribes passed policies like this?

- Yes! There are 6 tribes that have boldly banned flavored tobacco or the sale of all vapes (Oglala Sioux Tribe, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe, Muckleshoot Tribe, and Puyallup Tribe).⁵



Commercial tobacco is sold by tobacco companies and is addictive, processed and has chemicals added that are harmful to our health. Examples include, but are not limited to cigarettes, vapes, cigars, chew, and cigarillos.

Traditional tobacco is not addictive, has no additives, is not harmful to health, and is not even inhaled. The Čanlí Coalition respects and promotes the use of Cansasa.

Please reach out to us on Facebook @ČanlíCoalitionOfCRST if you have questions or concerns.

Sources:

1. Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. Flavored Tobacco Sales Restrictions. January 6, 2022. Available at <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/assets/factsheets/0409.pdf>
2. Truth Initiative. Surveying how the tobacco industry markets flavored products in five Midwest cities. January 2022. Available at https://truthinitiative.org/sites/default/files/media/files/2022/01/Counter%20tools%20retail%20assessment%20report_FINAL-01282022.pdf
3. D'Silva et al. Tobacco industry misappropriation of American Indian culture and traditional tobacco. *Tob Control* 2018;27:e57-e64.
4. Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. Raising Cigarette Taxes Reduces Smoking, Especially Among Kids. July 28, 2021. Available at <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/assets/factsheets/0146.pdf>
5. Public Health Law Center. States and Tribes Stepping in to Protect Communities from the Dangers of E-Cigarettes. February 25, 2020. Available at <https://www.publichealthlawcenter.org/resources/states-and-tribes-stepping-protect-communities-dangers-e-cigarettes-actions-and-options#:~:text=Given%20that%20this%20crisis%20coincides,the%20broader%20community%20against%20e%2D>

Last Updated May 2022

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