



September 25, 2019

Mayor Tim Smith
City of St. Albans
100 N. Main St.
St. Albans, Vermont 05478

Dear Mayor Smith;



On August 15th, the Franklin Grand Isle Tobacco Prevention Coalition and RiseVT collaborated with the Vermont Department of Health, NMC, and community volunteers (10 volunteers in total) to pick up tobacco litter Downtown. We did this for several reasons.

1. Cigarette butts are made of a plastic material. Because they are plastic, they do not biodegrade and can remain present in the environment for 20-25 years. They are also the number one littered item worldwide.
2. Cigarette filters can release toxins back into the environment, especially into our waterways. Because St. Albans is so near to the Lake, any trash, not to mention unsafe tobacco litter, is easily blown or washed into our Lake through storm drains, etc.
3. We wanted to know how much tobacco litter exists in community gathering spaces and where it might be concentrated.

During this 2-hour event, 10 volunteers met on a beautiful day to pick up cigarette and other tobacco litter.

- **In 2 hours, we picked up 2679 cigarette butts on sidewalks, alleyways, along curbs, in Taylor Park, and more.**
- **Last year, at a similar point in the summer, we picked up 3933 cigarette butts in a similar area.**

The FGI Tobacco Prevention Coalition is available to help you implement additional strategies that might help reduce tobacco litter throughout the community. We recommend considering adding more signage, especially on benches in the park or other areas where people congregate. We will also continue the conversation about what litter means for our environment and our community.

Thank you for allowing us to clean up butt litter in our City. Feel free to contact me with any ideas or requests you might have. We are happy to help. (524-1296/abrewer@nmcinc.org)

In good health,

Amy M. Brewer, MPH
Coordinator
Franklin Grand Isle Tobacco Prevention Coalition

Cc: Martin Manahan, Chip Sawyer, Dominic Cloud