

Submitter: Lisa Jones

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3090

My name is Lisa. I have owned and operated my Tobacco Store in Bend, Oregon for 23 years. We take pride in it being a local, family run business.

I am opposing this proposed ban on menthol cigarettes, flavored cigars, flavored chew and flavored vape products.

If this bill passes it would be detrimental to the business my family built. Although we sell a variety of items in our retail store, the items affected by this bill make up about 55% of our business.

We have been a responsible licensed retailer for 23 years. We respect and support the minimum age requirement of 21 and take our responsibility very seriously. All employees are trained thoroughly in checking ID's to prevent selling to minors. We are the first line of defense in preventing underage smoking. If this bill passes smokers will still find a way to acquire flavored items - through the internet, traveling to other states and from the black market where there is no control.

Small retailers in the State of Oregon are still struggling after being heavily impacted by the Covid Pandemic. Then in 2022 the State imposed an "Annual Tobacco License" requirement, with a significant fee. This flavor ban could be the final nail in the coffin for many retailers and force them to close their doors.

For us responsible Tobacco retailers, if this bill passes we will lose a significant number of customers. Which means an additional loss of sales of non-tobacco items. For example, a customer who would normally come to my discount Tobacco store for a pack of menthol cigarettes and while they are there they also purchase a six pack of beer, a bag of chips and a pack of gum. Now that customer has no incentive to come into my store since I no longer carry menthol cigarettes and instead they purchase the other items at the local grocery store. That greatly reduces my overall sales and profits which threatens my business from staying afloat.

Furthermore, as a business owner we pay taxes to the State of Oregon. Our customers pay taxes as well. Our adult customers deserve the right to choose to Smoke, Chew or Vape what they want, flavored or not. We do not need the government taking away another choice and freedom that we have.

I ask you Please, Do Not pass this Flavor Ban.

Thank you for your time.