

Submitter: Arsh Ratanpal

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3090

Dear Representatives,

I'm writing as a constituent and small business operator in Albany, OR. My business operates 2 stores within Linn County. I am urging you to oppose the proposed ban on all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, mint and wintergreen dip, and flavored cigars in H.B. 3090. We all agree that kids shouldn't use tobacco products - that's why the minimum age of purchase is 21. Licensed retailers, like me, have helped drive underage tobacco usage to historic lows, according to the FDA, only 1.6% of kids smoke cigarettes and 9.4% vape e-cigarettes. But banning legal tobacco products that are regulated by the FDA will take them out of my store and put them in illegal markets that won't be checking ID's. As a licensed retailer in the State of Oregon, I pay local and state taxes plus retail licensing fees. The state just passed a retail tobacco license that went into effect at the start of the year. This license helps the state track where commercial tobacco is being sold, enforce tobacco sales laws, and support retail owners and staff with education and training. Why are we going beyond this before we have had a chance to see progress with this new law? My business's viability relies on the responsible sale of the adult products that would be banned by H.B. 3090, along with revenue from the other items that customers purchase. Please oppose the ban on flavored tobacco products. This legislation will have a devastating impact not only on my small business but also on the local retail industry in Oregon. This issue is very important to me and as a constituent in your district, I'm urging you to take our concerns to heart.

Sincerely,

Arsh Ratanpal