

Submitter: Quinn Sellers  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2528

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 2528, as I believe its provisions could have significant negative consequences for small businesses in Oregon, particularly in relation to the expansion of the definition of "tobacco products" and the resulting tax implications.

The bill's broad definition of "tobacco products," which includes a variety of nicotine-based products such as nicotine pouches and lozenges, introduces a heavy tax burden on small businesses that sell these products. Many of these businesses already operate on thin margins, and the imposition of additional taxes could force them to raise prices or reduce inventory, ultimately harming their ability to serve customers and maintain profitability. Small retailers, local shops, and distributors, who may not have the resources to navigate complex tax structures, are likely to be disproportionately affected.

Furthermore, while the intention to regulate nicotine products is understandable, the financial burden placed on small businesses may encourage consumers to seek untaxed or online alternatives, potentially undermining the intended benefits of the bill and further hurting local businesses.

Rather than imposing additional taxes that would negatively impact small businesses, I urge you to reconsider the broad scope of HB 2528. I encourage you to explore targeted, less burdensome alternatives that protect public health without putting undue strain on small business owners and the local economy.