

## **Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2528**

Good afternoon, members of the committee. My name is Daniel Layne, and I am the manager of Tobacco Town, a small, family-owned business of 3 store locations that has proudly served our community for over 20 years. I come before you today to express my strong opposition to House Bill 2528.

Our business has always prioritized the safety and well-being of our community. We take great pride in our efforts to prevent minors from accessing tobacco products. Over the years, we've invested considerable time, resources, and training into ensuring compliance with state laws regarding the sale of tobacco. We utilize age verification technology, perform regular employee training, and actively participate in compliance checks to ensure that we are doing our part in keeping tobacco products out of the hands of minors.

However, House Bill 2528 presents a significant challenge for small businesses like ours. The proposed regulations in this bill would impose burdensome requirements that would make it increasingly difficult for us to continue operating responsibly. These regulations could increase costs, restrict our ability to serve our customers, and potentially drive us out of business, all while placing additional strain on small businesses that already operate on thin margins.

Moreover, it's important to note that small businesses like ours are already playing a key role in preventing underage tobacco sales. The stringent measures we have in place reflect our dedication to this cause, and this bill fails to acknowledge the effective, proactive steps we are already taking. We don't need more unnecessary restrictions; what we need are solutions that support businesses that are actively working to ensure compliance with the law and protect public health.

In conclusion, I ask you to carefully consider the impact this bill would have on small businesses that are already doing their part. Instead of imposing more regulations, let's work together to support businesses that are committed to keeping tobacco products out of the hands of minors, while also ensuring that we can continue to provide for our employees and serve our community.

Thank you for your time, and I respectfully urge you to vote against House Bill 2528.

Daniel Layne ( Tobacco Town )