

Submitter: Christy Abbe  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB702

My parents started our business in 1977 with a \$500 loan and through hard work and dedication, over 40 years grew the business to our current 4 stores in Central Oregon and The Dalles. We are a small family business, employing several family members and long time employees. Currently we employ about 25 people.

We have been in the tobacco business since 1984 with many changes in the industry including increased taxes and regulation.

We are responsible retailers, who have made changes to make our business safer even without law changes.

We were ahead of the move to put all tobacco behind the counter, and keep our counters clear of advertising. We have also cooperated with the local health department and their anti-tobacco initiatives.

We have stayed very main-stream in our business, not getting going to far into the vape products, etc. We stayed out of the refill and flavors, in order to keep our customers safe, not because we were made to.

I oppose the ban on flavored tobacco products. This legislation will have a devastating impact not only on my business but also the retail industry in Orgon. It takes away rights from adults who are of legal age to purchase these products, and may lead them to black market or out of state purchases. We all lose in that case.

All this to say, we have been in this business a long time and we are committed to selling a legal product sold responsibly to those of legal age to purchase those products.

This bill does not keep this product out of the hands of minors, but makes adults 21 and over look to the black market, with no regulation or taxes being paid. People in border towns would buy these items in another state, leading to revenue loss for Oregon.

Criminals don't make sure the "customer" is of legal age, or care about any laws they are breaking. The state will lose tax revenue and the ability to maintain product standards that protect the customer. Tobacco is a declining revenue source, why add this ban?

We are living in an upside-down world when TOBACCO, a highly regulated industry is getting so much pushback. Meanwhile illegal drugs are decriminalized, and marijuana and psychedelic mushrooms, which are mood-altering substances, are given a freeway into the marketplace.

Not to mention the inequity of tax increases to tobacco at unfair levels compared to alcohol! You can't tell me there are no health and addiction and society problems related to alcohol! Somehow that industry gets a pass. That is wrong!

I urge you to vote NO on the flavor ban.

Thank you