

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

While I am sympathetic to the aims of SB 702, I urge this committee to consider amending the proposed text to exclude pipe tobacco. Pipe smoking is not exactly a popular habit among young people - I doubt whether any state senator or representative has ever witnessed someone smoking a pipe below the age of, say, 40, much less the age of 18. However, pipe tobacco seems to be one of the targets of this bill as currently drafted. If adopted in its present form, SB 702 would no doubt achieve some worthy public health goals - limiting the ability of "big tobacco" / "big vape" to target minors - but would inadvertently restrict the ability of "old codgers" to enjoy an otherwise legal (and extremely niche) activity.

Pipe tobacco often includes ingredients that would seem to run afoul of SB702, though in many cases, they aren't even added for flavor, but to provide pH balance to the product. Several tobacconists in Oregon are renowned for their pipe tobacco blends; in addition to depriving older adults of access to a legally permitted substance, this bill would presumably restrict the business activities of law-abiding tobacconists.

Smoking a pipe is not good for you, and I don't think you would find a pipe smoker or pipe tobacco retailer who would claim it is. However, it is extremely far removed from the problem at hand: cigarettes and vape products whose marketing and flavoring targets young people. I urge you to consider amending the bill to avoid unduly punishing the few enthusiasts of an older tradition and the retailers that serve them.

Thank you for your consideration.