

3/2/2025

Subject: Opposition to the Proposed Tobacco Flavor Ban in Oregon

To Chairwoman Reynolds and Members of the committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed tobacco flavor ban in Oregon. As a local business owner, I am deeply concerned about the negative economic impact this ban would have on small businesses like mine, as well as the unintended consequences it may create.

Banning flavored tobacco products would not only hurt legitimate businesses but also drive consumers to unregulated markets, including online retailers and neighboring states. This would result in lost tax revenue for Oregon and put small businesses at a disadvantage compared to larger corporations that can absorb the financial losses. Additionally, many adult consumers make the informed choice to use flavored tobacco products, and restricting these options infringes on their personal freedoms.

Rather than enacting an outright ban, I urge you to consider alternative solutions such as stricter enforcement of existing age restrictions and targeted public education efforts. These approaches would better address concerns about youth access while preserving the rights of responsible adult consumers and protecting local businesses. All this will do is create a very dangerous black market which will be hard to control, and it will be easier access for young people.

I appreciate your time and consideration on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Maher Makboul

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