

Submitter: Joshua Bergman
On Behalf Of: L
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB702

Dear committee:

I strongly urge you to oppose this measure. I am over 40 years old and decided to stop smoking tobacco cigarettes several years ago in lieu for occasionally vaping. I enjoy vaping fruit flavors because I'm an adult and I enjoy fruit.

I also own 2 retail establishments in Washington and Multnomah county that sell vapes amongst other items. OHA has very strict guidelines and regulations in place that makes sure my store and others are not selling to minors. They frequently have sting operations as well to ensure compliance. I also pay a hefty annual fee for this tobacco license. I personally sell fruit flavored vapes to adults daily it's one of our most popular items and largest revenue driver. I don't sell cigarettes.

There has been no concrete evidence that vaping is more dangerous than smoking tobacco cigarettes. There are however the giant tobacco companies that are lobbying and leveraging to ban vapes to continue selling their known cancer products.

I've lived in Portland my entire life. I employ about a dozen people. Please allow adults to be adults and make their own decisions. How is fruit flavored vapes any different than fruit flavored marijuana or alcohol? We know children obtain these items as well. Do we need to ban all fruit flavored drugs and alcohol?

Please oppose this measure so I don't lose my business and employees lose their jobs. Don't we have much more critical issues in Portland with crime, illicit drugs and overdoses and a housing crisis?

Thank you for reading and your consideration,

Josh Bergman