

Submitter: Lisa Jones

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB702

Chair Reynolds and Committee. My name is Lisa Jones and I am the owner of Smoke This, a tobacco store located in Bend, Oregon. I am asking for you to oppose Senate Bill 702. I have lived in Central Oregon for 30 years and have owned my family business for 25 of those years.

Banning legal flavored tobacco products, including Menthol cigarettes, will not end the sale of these products in Oregon. It will simply encourage the criminal networks to feed the demand and it will do so without paying taxes, and following other rules and regulations.

Retailers like myself are the first line of defense when it comes to preventing those under the age of 21 from purchasing all tobacco products. We take this very seriously and require ID from anyone who looks under the age of 29 and we scan their ID's as well.

This proposed ban only serves to limit the product choices of adult customers. My customers deserve to have their right to choose and not have their choices take away from them by the state.

This ban will cause customers to purchase their menthol and flavored products out of state and will deeply hurt our bottom line.

Instead of banning flavored tobacco altogether, Oregon should focus on better options that don't hurt licensed retailers, like education, cessation support and underage prevention.

Youth tobacco use rates are at historic lows, at a national smoking rate of 1.3% and adult use rates are the lowest on record at 10.8%. All this progress has been made by keeping tobacco products in the legal and regulated system.

I urge you to please vote NO on Senate Bill 702.

Thank you!