

Submitter: Mayamba Ibrahim
On Behalf Of: Quality Sounds Ind. dba The Outpost
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB702

Flavor Ban Testimony

Good afternoon Madame Chair and committee.

I along with my family own 4 retail tobacco and general merchandise stores in Oregon. My father-in-law started his business in 1977. I am blessed to work with several of our family members and employees, who also become family.

For over 40 years we have been responsible retailers, following the laws and making sure our products are sold legally. We work hard to train our employees on the laws as they change.

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 Oregon. 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.

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