

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

Good afternoon, Chairman Reynolds and Committee,

My name is Jerrad Adams, and I represent Riverwoods Country Store, Subway, and Gas in Bend, Oregon. I am deeply concerned about Senate Bill 702. We are a small, family-owned business employing approximately 28 individuals in the Riverwoods community of Bend, OR. As retailers, we are the first line of defense against selling tobacco products to minors. We have implemented age verification systems and comprehensive employee training programs to prevent sales to underage individuals. We take the same precautions and maintain the same stance on the sale of tobacco as state-owned and operated liquor stores.

A complete ban on flavored tobacco products, as proposed in Senate Bill 702, may not effectively protect our children or minors. Instead, it could create a larger issue within the black market, where there will be no regulations or control over what is being sold to minors. This proposed ban could devastate our daily operations and result in significant layoffs of hard-working employees who diligently follow all state and federal regulations regarding the sale of tobacco products. Our employees are dedicated members of the community, and their livelihoods are at stake. Moreover, the economic impact on our small business could be devastating, threatening the survival of our establishment and the jobs we provide to the community.

The unintended consequences of a black market are significant and cannot be ignored. Without proper regulation, minors will have easier access to unsafe and unregulated products. For example, black market products may contain harmful substances that pose serious health risks. Additionally, the black market undermines the efforts of responsible retailers who prioritize the safety and well-being of their customers. The taxes generated will also be lost once the black market starts controlling the products. This situation could lead to a decrease in state revenue, which could affect public services and infrastructure projects funded by these taxes.

We appreciate the Committee's dedication to safeguarding our youth. I implore you to reconsider Senate Bill 702 and explore alternative solutions that effectively protect our youth without harming responsible businesses and their employees. I also want to challenge all of you here today especially those in medical and healthcare to really look at the fact that we are targeting the tobacco industry and looking past the fact that the alcohol, liquor, and marijuana industries all have flavored products and we don't seem to address these industries and the harm they bring to youth as well.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my viewpoint. I am more than willing to participate in any further discussions or provide additional information if needed.

Thank You,

Jerrad Adams