

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

To Committee Members,

My name is Frank X and I am the owner of Vape Central Wholesale, a small business selling to Oregon that distributes vapor products to retailers throughout the state. I am writing today to strongly oppose Oregon Senate Bill 702, which seeks to impose regulations that will severely harm our business, as well as the broader vape industry, and ultimately undermine public health efforts to reduce smoking rates in our community.

First and foremost, the bill fails to recognize the significant role that vapor products have played in helping many adults transition away from smoking. As a distributor, I have seen firsthand how adult smokers have used vapor products as a less harmful alternative to cigarettes. For many individuals, switching to vaping has been the most effective way to quit smoking, and the industry's track record of helping people reduce or eliminate their tobacco use is supported by countless studies. By imposing harsher regulations and taxes on these products, the bill could restrict access to alternatives that have saved lives.

Furthermore, the bill's provisions regarding product bans and flavor restrictions are also concerning. Many customers, particularly those who have successfully quit smoking, rely on the variety of flavors offered in vaping products to make their transition more enjoyable and sustainable.

"According to a survey conducted by University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) researchers, the ban did not result in adults quitting e-cig use and may have driven some back to smoking regular cigarettes. The researchers point to policy loopholes as the main reasons the policy failed to push people to quit.

Survey results, published in Tobacco Control, show that less than five percent of the 3,500 adult e-cig users who responded to the survey quit using e-cigs in response to the flavored e-cig ban. The rest of the respondents switched to other forms or flavors of e-cigs not covered by the ban or other types of tobacco products."-Newsroom.com
Banning flavors or placing restrictive regulations on them will limit consumer choice and it will not deter them from vaping. It is essential that we continue to allow adult consumers access to products that meet their individual needs.

In addition to the negative impact on public health, this bill could have a devastating economic impact on small businesses. My company, along with many others in the state and nation wide, has worked hard to create jobs, foster local economies, and provide Oregonians with a choice that can improve their health. A bill like Senate Bill 702 would put these businesses at risk, leading to job losses and decreased economic activity across the state.

In conclusion, Oregon Senate Bill 702 will do more harm than good. Instead of

focusing on punishing a legal industry that helps adult smokers transition away from harmful tobacco products, we should be working together to develop balanced solutions that ensure consumer safety while allowing responsible access to vapor products. I urge you to reconsider the harmful impact this bill would have on both public health and the Oregon economy and to oppose its passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank X

Owner, Vape Central Wholesale

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