



March 3, 2025

Oregon State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Support for Senate Bill 702**, Relating to public health

Dear Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the more than 55,000 members and supporters of the Sierra Club Oregon Chapter, we write in support of Senate Bill 702, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products in Oregon. This bill is a critical step in preventing Big Tobacco from targeting children and historically marginalized communities with flavored tobacco products such as candy-flavored e-cigarettes, menthol cigarettes, and fruit-flavored cigars that are well documented as the number one cause of preventable death in the United States.

Sierra Club Oregon also supports SB 702 because tobacco use and production are environmental justice issues and tobacco product disposal causes significant environmental damage. Tobacco farming depletes soil, contributes to deforestation, and exposes workers to harmful pesticides. The waste generated by cigarette butts and e-cigarette pods is a major source of plastic pollution, harming wildlife and ecosystems across Oregon. Several counties and cities within the state have already passed resolutions to ban flavored tobacco products and it is time that we extend this to state wide.

Flavored tobacco products disproportionately harm communities that are already facing environmental and economic burdens. By eliminating these products, Oregon can reduce the impact of tobacco-related health issues and lessen the environmental pollution caused by tobacco waste such as cigarette butts, particularly in historically underserved communities. Eighty-one percent of children who've used tobacco start with flavored products and eighty-nine percent of e-cigarette users use flavored products. We cannot deny the direct relationship between flavored tobacco products and the use of e-cigarettes which are becoming an ever larger source of e-waste in Oregon.

Ending the sale of flavored tobacco and e-cigarette products is a necessary step to protect the health of Oregon's kids, reduce health inequities, and prevent further environmental harm. I urge you to support SB 702 for the health of our communities and the future of our environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Bowes, Policy Strategist

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Bowes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

1821 SE Ankeny Street · Portland, OR 97214  
503-238-0442  
emily.bowes@sierraclub.org  
www.oregonsierraclub.org  
@ORSierraClub on Facebook, Instagram, and X/Twitter