

Submitter:

Nirdosh Dhakal

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1198

Joint Rules Chairman & Committee, my name is Andy Dhakal, I am the owner of 4 convenience stores in Portland.

Thank you for giving me time to speak today. I am here to ask you to oppose Senate Bill 1198.

As a parent of two young children, it is of paramount importance to me that tobacco, nicotine and vape products are only sold to adults 21 and older. Retailers like me are the first line of defense when it comes to preventing kids from purchasing tobacco products. We take this responsibility very seriously. Instead of sweeping bans, the most effective strategies for reducing youth nicotine use are enforcement and education.

As a student of Political science and citizen of this great country, I believe in representative democracy. We citizens of this state select and pick our representatives. The idea is our representative can hear our concern and view, and based on that view, make a decision. I understand the intent of the bill, but it is too vague and delegates too much authority to OHA. OHA already proposed a bill earlier this session that would have given it sweeping authority to ban large number of products without legislative approval. I was there in opposition, and I am here again today in opposition because SB 1198 would give OHA the empowerment to decide without legislative oversight.

Our state is already facing financial challenges, and there is increased uncertainty about potential federal cuts that the Trump administration might make. We should be very cautious about implementing ineffective and vague policies that could result substantial revenue losses and increased expenses. Oregon can't afford the massive revenue loss from a unclear, non-specific bill

Please oppose Senate Bill 1198. Thank you.