

Submitter: Lisa Jones

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2528

My name is Lisa Jones and I am the owner of Smoke This, a tobacco store located in Bend, Oregon. I am writing today asking you to oppose Senate Bill 2528.

I have lived in Central Oregon for 30 years and have owned my family business for 25 years.

This bill is wanting to add a 65% tax to nicotine pouches. That is excessive and unfair to those that have chosen to switch to the nicotine alternative to keep them from smoking and/or vaping. This increase would make a nicotine pouch priced higher than some cigarette packs in my store. This would be counter productive to the reason nicotine pouches are marketed. They are a great alternative for those that want to stop smoking traditional cigarettes and/or vaping.

Oregon's cost of living is already among the highest in the nation and with the current uncertain economic environment, people are struggling financially. Now is not the time to increase the financial burden on households.

As a retailer, I take my responsibility very seriously. I am the first line of defense in preventing underage tobacco use. Any tax increase will encourage consumers to seek the illicit market where there are no regulations and ID's are not verified. Other consumers will purchase out of state, where they are lower in cost, hurting retailers like me.

I urge you to please vote NO on Senate Bill 2528

Thank you!