

Submitter:

Christy Abbe

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2528

My name is Christy Abbe. My family and I own 4 retail stores in Central Oregon and The Dalles, I am writing today today in opposition of HB2528A.

This bill has many flaws. In no particular order, here are some of the problems with this bill.

1. Taxation should not be in the hands of a state agency and their employees. The legislators and taxpayers should be the ones making these decisions.
2. This bill is sold as keeping these products away from kids, when adding taxes is the actual goal.
3. Changing the penalties from criminal to civil make only the employer responsible for legal sales, rather than the employee. This is very unfair and could be exploited by a disgruntled employee.
4. Taxing these products at 65% of wholesale would be a huge increase and would make many go back to tobacco products. It could also send them to the illicit market. When legal products become expensive the illicit market thrives.
5. Small businesses and consumers are already struggling. This is not the time to add to their burden.

I strongly oppose this bad bill.