

Submitter: Harpal Singh

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB702

Dear members of the Oregon legislature

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 702. As a small business owner who operates a licensed smoke shop, I believe this bill would have devastating consequences not only for my livelihood but also for my employees and customers.

1.) Severe Economic Impact on Small Businesses

Flavored products make up a significant portion of total sales for specialty tobacco retailers like me( roughly 70%). If SB 702 passes, my business will face immediate and unsustainable revenue losses. This could result in store closures, layoffs, and a ripple effect on local suppliers and service providers.

2.) Unintended Public Health Consequences

Many adult consumers use flavored vape and nicotine products as a way to reduce or quit smoking cigarettes. By removing access to flavored alternatives, SB 702 risks pushing these adults back toward more harmful tobacco use. A ban may also encourage unregulated, black market purchases- where safety, quality and age verification cannot be guaranteed.

3.) Existing Youth Protections are working

We all agree on protecting youth. However, Oregon already has strong age restrictions and enforcement in place for tobacco sales. Rather than punishing responsible, licensed retailers, we should invest in more robust enforcement and education. SB 702 overreaches by limiting adult choice and punishing complaint businesses.

4.) Local communities should not be penalized

SB 702 also opens door for local jurisdictions to enforce stricter rules, leading to inconsistent regulations and confusion across the state. This patchwork approach further burdens small business owners trying to operate responsibly within legal frameworks

I urge lawmakers to consider the full economic, public health and regulatory consequences of SB 702. This bill may be well-intentioned but its impact on Small Businesses, adult consumers and the state economy would be profoundly negative. Please oppose SB 702 and instead pursue balanced solutions that protect youth while preserving access for responsible adult users and supporting Oregon's small businesses.

Respectfully,  
Harpal Singh