

As a small business owner in the state of Oregon, I'm incredibly frustrated to hear that you're considering banning the sale of flavored tobacco products at convenience stores. This amended proposal is reckless and has the potential to devastate business owners and customers alike.

I take pride in offering a wide variety of goods and products, including tobacco and nicotine products, to the customers in my community. People rely on my store just as much as I rely on their business to support my family. Did you know that tobacco sales represent nearly one-third of inside sales? This proposal would do nothing more than devastate retailers like me and across Oregon but protect the 282 state-run liquor stores.

I never thought I'd have to fight for my livelihood this way while the state is considering action that will directly impact me. You may think it's easy to simply change a business model with legislative changes, but it adds more and more bureaucratic layers that you'd be forcing me to navigate.

We're all still facing the real challenges of inflation and other concerning economic circumstances. Inflation continues hitting my customers hard and it's forcing them to choose cheaper products or fewer products overall. This hits all of us, including the revenues the states relies on to fund its programs and services for our most vulnerable populations.

Rather than pursue legislation that we know won't accomplish desired public health goals, surely there must be a better way that balances public health through fully-funded prevention programs and ensuring small businesses don't have to suffer as a result.

Please vote NO on SB 702.

Thank you

