



Plaid Pantries, Inc. • 1585 SW Marlow Ave. Suite 120 • Portland, OR 97225 • Telephone: 503.646.4246

February 10, 2026

Opposition to SB1571

Chair Prozanski, members of the Committee,

My name is Jonathan Polonsky, I am the CEO of Plaid Pantry, which owns and operates 104 convenience stores in Oregon, Plaid Pantry is strongly opposed to SB 1571.

As I have testified many times over the years, Plaid Pantry has made—and continues to make—significant investments in training, systems, and accountability to ensure we do not sell age-restricted products to minors. As a result, we maintain one of the strongest compliance records in the state.

Importantly, this commitment is not isolated. Retailers across Oregon are demonstrably improving. According to the Oregon Health Authority's February report, violations declined by **33% from 2023 to 2024** (see attached). Statewide compliance now stands at **86%**, a solid B+ and clearly trending toward an A.

These results matter. They show that the **existing regulatory framework is working** and that education, enforcement, and collaboration are driving real, measurable progress. SB 1571 would move Oregon in the opposite direction by granting the Oregon Health Authority broad, unchecked authority to rewrite rules that have already been vetted, implemented, and proven effective.

At a time when small businesses are under extraordinary pressure—from labor shortages to inflation to rising regulatory complexity—adding uncertainty and additional layers of compliance is unnecessary and counterproductive. Progress is being made without expanding bureaucracy or destabilizing rules that retailers have already invested heavily to follow.

We believe the most effective path forward is to **continue education, training, and partnership**, not to further legislate a problem that is actively improving. Plaid Pantry has been leading that effort for years and stands ready to assist policymakers in continuing to raise compliance across the state.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to oppose SB 1571 and allow the current system—one that is clearly delivering results—to continue working.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Polonsky
President & CEO
Plaid Pantry

Oregon Tobacco Inspections Report

February 2025

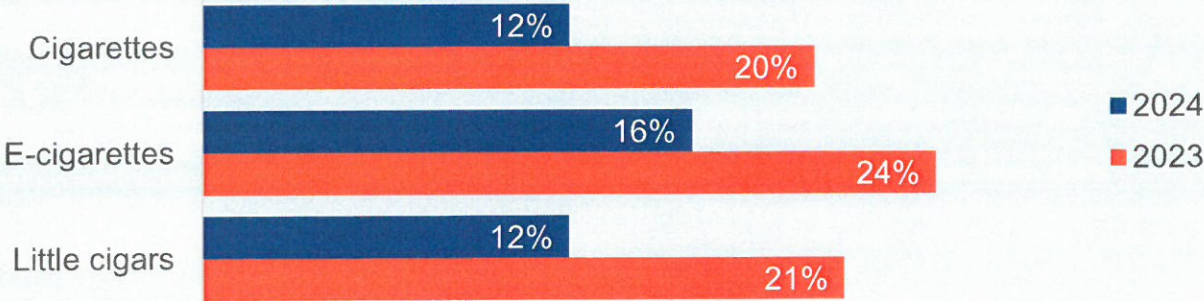
Program Description

Any business that sells tobacco or inhalant delivery systems known as e-cigarettes) in Oregon is required to get a tobacco retail license.

- Tobacco retail license programs are an effective way to:
- Protect youth from commercial tobacco addiction.
 - Educate retailers about tobacco sales laws.
 - Hold retailers accountable by imposing effective penalties.

Oregon law prohibits the sale of tobacco products and inhalant delivery systems to persons under 21 years of age. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Tobacco Retail License Program conducts random, unannounced inspections of tobacco retailers. If the retailer makes an illegal sale during an inspection, OHA issues a civil penalty to the license holder. In 2024, OHA inspected 99.3% of tobacco retailers licensed by the state. Data in this report are from a representative sample of state and local license program inspections.

Violations varied by product type. In 2024, e-cigarettes, the tobacco product most commonly used by youth, continue to be sold more often than cigarettes and little cigars.



The Oregon Tobacco Retail License Program and local programs worked with **26 young adult inspectors in 2024**. Young adult inspectors gain:

- Mentorship
- Job skills development
- Understanding of public health
- Meaningful employment

Protecting Youth

Research shows that if people do not start smoking before they turn 19, they are far less likely to ever start. While youth use of cigarettes has been decreasing over time, use of other tobacco and nicotine products, such as e-cigarettes, is still a concern. Standing firm on laws that protect youth is important to hold the tobacco industry accountable for its addictive products.

