



Plaid Pantries, Inc. • 10025 SW Allen Blvd. • Beaverton, Oregon 97005 • Telephone: 503.646.4246 • Facsimile: 503.646.3071

February 5, 2014

Chair Carolyn Tomei
Vice-Chair David Gomberg
Vice-Chair Andy Olson
Representative Joe Gallegos
Representative Sara Gelser

Representative Vic Gilliam
Representative Sara Gelser
Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer
Representative Gene Whisnant
Representative Gail Whitsett

House Committee on Human Services and Housing
900 Court St. NE, Room 347
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Tomei and Vice-Chairs Gomberg and Olson:

Plaid Pantries, Inc. owns and operates 108 convenience stores in the Northwest, with the majority of our stores being here in Oregon. Plaid is also a member of the Oregon Neighborhood Store Association (ONSA), which provides legislative and regulatory representation for Oregon's 2,900 smaller, mostly family-owned and operated convenience food stores.

Plaid and ONSA support the HB 4073 provisions to include vaping products with tobacco products. Plaid already treats vaping products as tobacco products restricting access from minors. It is appropriate for legislators to seriously consider the most responsible manner in which to treat vapor products. We absolutely share in your interest in keeping these products out of the hands of minors.

Oregon state law currently prohibits anyone from selling or giving tobacco products and devices used for tobacco consumption to anyone under the age of 18. The law does not include vapor products, which were introduced into the market around 2006. The current law also provides for conviction of a gross misdemeanor for anyone violating this law and carries a fine of no less than \$100 for violations.

Vapor products are emerging as a non-combustible, less harmful alternative to smoking traditional cigarettes. Although these products do not contain tobacco, they still contain nicotine, which is addictive. These vapor products are being sold in more and more stores, and are also easily available online.

This bill would properly define vapor products and would make it illegal for anyone to sell or give a vapor product to anyone under the age of 18. Anyone convicted of doing so would be found guilty of a gross misdemeanor, which we believe would act as a deterrent.

Both Plaid Pantry and the members of the Oregon Neighborhood Store Association take very seriously our responsibility to ensure that tobacco products are only sold to those who are of legal age to purchase tobacco products. We spend a considerable amount of time and money each year making sure our employees are properly trained on how to deal with tobacco sales. This includes obtaining valid identification and refusing sale to underage individuals. We are held responsible by the state and the federal government in the event that a sale is made to an underage person. Violations of the restrictions can result in fines and termination of employees.

For these reasons, we support this bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Girard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and the last name "Girard" clearly distinguishable.

Chris Girard
President & CEO – Plaid Pantries, Inc.
Chair – Oregon Neighborhood Store Association