

Dear Sir,

My name is Kim Leatham. I have never smoked but I have lost my father, my brother, and many other family and friends to cancer and other smoking-related causes. In Sept. of last year I decided to start helping other families, to keep loved ones from dying before their time, by opening a small Vaping shop in Central Point OR. I had no money but used all of my good credit and started on a shoestring. The sole idea was to get people off of tobacco as soon as possible AND as easily as possible. People addicted to tobacco need the nicotine but also need the "hand-to-mouth" action. Patches work for some but not that many. Cold Turkey is too hard for most people. Vaping is a way for smokers and chewers to stop using a known cancer-causing product for good, and I don't understand why lawmakers would want to make that harder and more expensive to do than smoking is. The 4 (FOUR) ingredients in e-liquids ARE safe. Most e-juice is now higher proportions of vegetable glycerin over propylene glycol (also FDA approved and in many foods!) The flavors are mostly natural and the nicotine is pharmaceutical grade. Addictive, yes, but NOT harmful. The almost 4000 chemicals in tobacco ARE carcinogenic!

The only negative info out there is because someone tested product in a way that IS NOT like anyone would use it. That info has been pushed by Big Tobacco, and it was 'spun' to their advantage, of course. Big Tobacco benefits from any legislation that makes it harder for people to use vaping as a tool to quit using tobacco. Making it harder to vape is making it easier to keep smoking!

As a new and struggling small business owner, (I still do my day job of driving a truck) I want to ask that you allow the vaping industry to do what it was conceived to do and that is to HELP PEOPLE QUIT TOBACCO! We don't let, or want, underage kids to vape. We try to drop the nicotine levels every time a customer comes in to buy the e-liquids, and we are helping save lives every day.

By banning, taxing, and making it harder for people to even start vaping, you send a message that you want people to use tobacco. Tobacco kills people. I just can't see how anyone would think that way, unless you work for Big Tobacco.

Lastly, the economy today is not great but, I had a dream to help people, no matter what. If you kill the vaping industry with legislation, I will be out of business. I will be bankrupt. LITERALLY! And worse...I won't be able to help any more families keep the people they love from dying from the many health issues caused by tobacco. My mother is 92. She has outlived her father by 40 years, and survived her son (my brother) and 3 husbands (the last being 20 years younger than her), all of whom died from smoking-related diseases, including emphysema and lung cancer. Please stand up for the people you represent, not for Big Tobacco.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,  
Kim Leatham  
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