

To: Chair Beyer and Committee Members

Senate Committee on Business & Transportation

Date: April 8, 2015

RE: SB 417

Chair Beyer and members of the committee,

My name is Ronald Sather and I am a voter from Senate District 8. I am also an owner of a vape shop and board member of Northwest Vapor Association.

While I applaud Senator Steiner-Hayward's efforts on this Bill I oppose it, both as written and with the -5 amendment.

While I agree with portions of this Bill:

- Limiting/eliminating the black market
- Shop exclusion which is imperative to our business model

I believe this Bill still needs some work.

- I am not against regulation but I want fair, reasonable regulation. I am NOT tobacco—I am against tobacco.
- Vague language—this Bill needs to be more definitive. As written it could easily cause confusion as to the intent
- Dual regulating agencies—having multiple regulating bodies could confuse the interpretation further

NWVA has insights from the industry standpoint that could help accomplish the goals and intent of this Bill. We are already working with the Department of Justice and the Department of Revenue on some of these same issues. Working together to revise this Bill could help avoid a patchwork of different agencies trying to accomplish parallel goals.

With this Bill not becoming effective until 2017, we ask that you set this Bill aside and invite us to the table. NWVA would embrace the opportunity to become part of the discussion. We can re-introduce this next year as a solid piece of legislation that represents good, sound public policy while still meeting the goals and intent of this Bill in a timely fashion.

Sincerely,

Ronald Sather

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