

From: [Jason Weber](#)
To: [LRO](#)
Subject: I didn't get to finish my testimony so here it is
Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 9:45:21 AM

Chairs & members of the committee..
How everyone doing today?

My name is Jason Weber, I help people quit smoking for a living.

Been doing it for over 5 years now, and it's very rewarding.

I own two brick and mortars by the name of Smokeless Solutions out of Roseburg Oregon,
And I manufacture some of the highest award winning eliquid in the United States under the
name Vape Crusaders

With the help of my wife and about a dozen employees we have helped several thousand
people quit smoking with the use of coaching and vapor products over the years. How many
doctors can even say that?

Also vaping is the only thing that got me off my 14 year cigarette habit, but this time I'll skip
my story and just go into the numbers and facts

For those of you who didn't hear it said earlier, smoking is **THEE** #1 most preventable cause
of death in the US
KILLING over 480k people a year.
Smoking not vaping

It also costs Oregon 1.54 **BILLION** dollars a year in health care, and over 347 **MILLION** a
year in Medicaid.

Which is why I find it crazy that I'm here again having to oppose a 95% tax.

You know what else is 95%?

The statistics of how much safer vaping is then smoking..

The Last couple of times we fought this bill our opposition gave all kinds of false health
claims, and it's happened again this time even now when the truth is out, from UK to
American studies, they show that all the panic was for nothing.

Now that it's been proven that vaping is more then twice as successful at getting people to quit
smoking then the patches and the gum, I'm hearing from our lobbyists that the reason for this
outrageous tax
is to keep teens from vaping.

First I'd like to point out that teen smoking is at an all time low. And as far as numbers that
were quoted earlier for teen vaping use, those teens reported **TRYING** vaping in the last 30
days, not being consistent users.
And for the record my shops, and most of our shops don't sell juuls

Second I'd like to say that none of us want minors vaping either, this is why our shops regulated ourselves before it was law.

Third I'd like to point out that our shops are the most strict in carding in the industry.

Internet, and mini marts, are the ones that should be being looked at for minors getting ahold of these products.

Forcing us to raise prices will NOT keep teens from rebelling.

You know what it WILL do though...

It will double my prices, which will send my customers online, and out of state, or worse back to smoking.

Which leaves the state of Oregon with no money at all from us.

Think about how much you get from the taxes that my employees and I pay now...

How many jobs have been created..

You will lose that too, because if I'm being honest this tax will force me to shut down my shops, move to either Nevada or New Mexico and I'll just manufacture my eliquid there.

Why you might wonder?

Because those states brought vapor owners to the table,

those states talked about a reasonable tax that would allow them to recoup some of the money they are missing from lost cigarette sales, and allows us to continue to do business.

I don't agree that we should be taxed at all, we're not a sin product, but I'm also not ignorant and I know it's inevitable.

However at some point Oregon needs to stop shooting themselves in the foot and actually open up a conversation with us about something reasonable.

We shouldn't have to drive up here on a whim, after the fact to defend ourselves, when we could all be working together to solve the states issues,

I mean come on.. We're the ones on the front line, we know what's actually going on.

We're saving lives!

I appreciate your time today.. But I oppose these tax bills on vaping, and I urge you to do the same.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jason Weber