

**Introduction**

Joe Gibson                      Principal / Owner-operator of Dari-Mart Stores  
41 stores within Lane, Linn & Benton counties  
500 + employees

I am here to respectfully oppose HB 3090 – prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products

We take every effort to make certain we are engaged in the responsible sale of tobacco products at each and every one of our locations.

We feel very strongly that the use of tobacco products is an adult decision. I believe adults in our society should maintain this ability.

Please put emotion aside and review the facts:

According to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), as well as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the prevalence of use of “traditional” tobacco products among minors has been on the decline in recent years – a very positive trend.

In the event that a minor chooses to use tobacco products the current statistics show, from such entities as OHA and CDC, that they tend to migrate to vaping products – electronic cigarettes.

I believe there are better and more effective options for this committee to consider:

1.        Let’s focus on minors and vaping products – leave adults to make their own decisions.

I would encourage the committee to look at a comprehensive educational campaign specifically aimed at minors and the current use of vaping products. Oregon maintains a “Tobacco Use Reduction” program specifically for such purposes.

2.        Consider education and information through the existing retail tobacco licensing program started in 2021 with the passage of Senate Bill 587.

3.        Information from the OHA shows that minors predominantly access tobacco products through family and friends as opposed to the retail sector. **IF** we remain concerned with minors accessing tobacco products through the retail channel I would encourage the committee to review legislation recently effective in Nevada. This legislation, effective January 1 of the

current year, requires every retailer engaged with the sale of tobacco products to secure and use electronic age-identification equipment, which most retailers including ourselves use daily

[https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/81st2021/Bills/AB/AB360\\_EN.pdf](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/81st2021/Bills/AB/AB360_EN.pdf)

In summary I would strongly encourage the committee to look at a variety of what I believe would prove to represent more effective alternatives to the proposed ban on flavored tobacco products.

Let's also keep in mind of the potential revenue loss to the state – most of the tax dollars generate through the tobacco tax are dedicated to the Oregon Health Plan. A ban on all flavored products would represent a reduction of \$100 million-plus per year to the state. This type of impact deserves careful consideration.

Thank you for your attention.