



FREE OREGON, INC.
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Testimony in **OPPOSITION** of HB 3090

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Free Oregon, Inc.

Written by: Ben Edtl, CEO

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Nelson and Goodwin and the Members of the Committee:

Free Oregon, Inc. represents more than 20K stakeholders residing in the state of Oregon who have a civil interest in protecting constitutionally guaranteed rights. We believe in absolute medical freedom and we also believe in protecting the health and well-being of all children.

HB 3090 intends to prohibit the sale of flavored nicotine in Oregon. **Free Oregon opposes this** on the basis that HB 3090 will be a significant detriment to the health of Oregonians dependent on nicotine. Nicotine is a drug that is legal and regulated in the United States and Oregon for adult consumption. Nicotine, when consumed in moderation, is comparable to the health risks of caffeine. Vaping nicotine is proven to be a far healthier method of ingestion compared to smoking and chewing tobacco products. Tobacco products, such as chewing tobacco and cigarettes, contain a high level of toxins and chemicals including tar, carbon monoxide, fiber glass, ammonia and much more, proven to cause cancer, heart, mouth and lung disease.

Regulated flavored vaping liquids reveal ingredients on the packaging. They contain sugars, flavor elements, Vegetable Glycerin and Propylene Glycol (a food grade oil approved by the FDA that is widely used since the 1940's).

Please to consider the following consequences of flavored vaping ban in Oregon:

1. Prohibition on flavored nicotine products in Oregon will result in increased tobacco use with associated health outcomes in both adults and minors.
2. In 2019 black market vaping liquids killed a high number of minors across the U.S. Prohibition on flavored nicotine products in Oregon will drive consumers to unregulated black markets in which vaping liquids may contain extremely harmful chemicals such as Fentanyl and/or other illicit drugs, deadly bacteria, etc. **Would you want YOUR TEEN to experiment with nicotine vaping products manufactured on the black market?**
3. The fiscal impact of prohibition is estimated to exceed \$200MM in annual revenue to the State.

I urge you all to stop the progression of this bill and protect Oregonians with continued regulation of flavored vaping products in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Ben Edtl, CEO | Free Oregon, Inc.



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