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Submittal of written testimony because the committee ran out of time before hearing from attendees on 3/21/2023 on HB3090

Gabriel Zirkle, Owner of 50 retail facilities in Oregon employing 500 people across the State. We have been in business for 53 years selling legal goods to consumers.

We are the front-line defense to protect kids from obtaining adult products. We spend time and money to install the latest technologies to succeed at this day in and day out. It's not easy, it's not difficult but it takes focus!

A problem exists today with underage products being consumed. HB3090 will exacerbate this issue by driving more kids to seek out, illegally purchase, try, and use products they are not supposed to have. It's in fact a driving force to do what you are told not to do for many youths.

Oregon did a first in this country taking adult rights away from 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds a few years back. Did it do anything to curb addiction? Did it stop youths from obtaining adult products? No! It drove those kids to find alternative avenues to source, drove youths to steal from adults or stores to try the product they are told are only legal for others. It also removed the work force from many first opportunity jobs, furthering the employment crisis we have today and delaying the educational benefits of gainful employment. Those repercussions will be studied years from now and we may not like the results.

HB3090 takes away the rights of adults to choose what they can and cannot do with their bodies. It will reduce the number of smokers because it removes the alternative choice to traditional tobacco. It will open Oregon to trafficking illegal products and that is far more reaching than the products we are talking about.

Cold turkey approach to addition is a risk and liability to all Oregon residents. Health and safety are top priorities cited for approving this bill, but removing a product people are dependent upon is a greater health risk than any other. We decriminalized use of hard-core drugs, but we are going to make it illegal to buy legal product found in most stores? The paint brush approach to this bill is disgusting and irresponsible.

Please say NO to HB3090 before you hurt legally compliant adults and businesses trying to support the reduction of minors in possession of adult products. Say No to avoid driving our youths to source products from people or companies that have worst exposures to illicit items than flavors. Say No because it does not stop the flavor ban on marijuana, a federally illegal drug. Say No because it's what needs to happen.

Common sense shows this proposal is flawed from the onset. We can do better and target the real problems.

Thank you for your time.
Gabriel Zirkle.