

Dear Representatives.

I am writing this testimonial as a constituent and small business general manager in Portland,OR. My business operates 3 stores across Portland and Oregon City while employing 13 Oregonians. I am here to urge you to oppose the proposed ban on all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, mint and wintergreen dip, and flavored cigars in H.B. 3090. The business that I manage has been operating for 16 plus years in Oregon. Primarily my business is the sale of Tobacco products. We all agree that kids shouldn't use tobacco products - that's why the minimum age of purchase is 21. Licensed retailers, like me, have helped drive underage tobacco usage to historic lows, however banning legal tobacco products that are regulated by the FDA will take them out of my stores and put them in illegal markets. Retailers are the first line of defense when it comes to preventing kids from purchasing tobacco products. We take this responsibility very seriously. At our stores you are not supposed to even enter the building if you are under 21 years of age. Banning flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, will not end the sale of these products in Oregon. It will simply encourage criminal networks to feed the demand, and will do so without paying taxes, without checking ID, and without following any other rules and regulations. We know that prohibition does not work. It did not work for alcohol, it did not work for marijuana, and it won't work for adult-preferred flavored tobacco products. My business's viability relies on the responsible sale of the adult products that would be banned by H.B. 3090 . Please oppose the ban on flavored tobacco products. This legislation will have a devastating impact not only on my small business but also on the local retail industry in Oregon. This issue is very important to me and as a constituent in your district, I'm urging you to oppose HB3090 .

Sincerely,

James White