

Dear Representative s and Oregon State Government

I'm writing as a constituent and small business operator in Portland Oregon . My business operates 2 Businesses across Portland NE area and employs 6 Oregonians. I am urging 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.

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, according to the FDA, only 1.6% of kids smoke cigarettes and 9.4% vape e-cigarettes. But banning legal tobacco products that are regulated by the FDA will take them out of my store and put them in illegal markets that won't be checking ID's.

As a licensed retailer in the State of Oregon, I pay local and state taxes plus retail licensing fees. The state just passed a retail tobacco license that went into effect at the start of the year. Why are we going beyond this before we have had a chance to see progress with this new law?

I am a 78 year old hard working all my life lady, where alot was related to ckecking ID for Alcohol or tobacco products. **Banning flavors of tobacco products is not going to solved our under age purchases of these products** . Oregon has been going in the right directions with laws that have been changed and also maybe selling only in excusive over 21 tobacco stores may also help. But i can say, all most 100 percent that flavor nicotine products will be sold on the street (black Market per say ) and which will make the state go backwards instead of forward in controlling the issue of 21 and over sales. And lot of them will go back to smoking the good ole Marlboro or camel. i ask 20 customers that are between the age of 22 to 24 If they were 16 and could not even get vape juice would they going back to their favorite camel or marlboro and they said absolutely. So lets add a little chemical to there habits, it all makes me so sad when there are so many alternatives rather than ban flavors

which would and could solve the problems. Let's not make our state go backwards, And keep the small business operational.

My business's viability relies on the responsible sale of the adult products that would be banned by H.B. 3090, along with revenue from the other items that customers purchase.

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 take our concerns to heart.

Sincerely,

Sheila Laplante

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## **Please consider these points below They seem to make a lot Of Sense**

### **Talking Points to Consider**

1. Reasonable regulations to keep tobacco products from getting into kids' hands make sense, but banning the sale of menthol cigarettes, flavored cigars, and flavored dip for adults is not the right way. It would only create unintended consequences and severely hurt responsible retailers like us.
2. Retailers are the first line of defense when it comes to preventing kids from purchasing tobacco products. We take this responsibility very seriously.
3. to create a series of other problems like increased illegal activity, by banning traditional, adult-only tobacco products.
4. This proposed ban only serves to limit the product choices of adult customers. And if adult customers cannot buy their preferred products in our stores, **they will just go outside of our state to make their purchases.** While there, they will also purchase gas, grocery items and beverages. Worse yet, prohibiting these products could shift sales

from law-abiding responsible retailers, like us, to potentially illegal sources who don't check IDs.

5. Our store pays taxes, creates jobs, and supports Oregon's economy. This ban would not only hurt our business, but it could also have devastating effects in our communities.
6. According to the FDA and the CDC, youth cigarette smoking, including those smoking menthol cigarettes, has declined to historic lows. Youth smoking is at 1.6% and declining across all age groups. Youth menthol cigarette use is down to 0.8%.
7. Banning flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, won't 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 or regulations.**
8. The current economic crisis has hit Oregonians hard. Convenience stores like mine, that provide the necessities for some neighborhoods – bread, milk, water – are closing. This proposal only unnecessarily compounds this economic hardship.
9. We know that prohibition does not work. It did not work for alcohol, it did not work for marijuana, and it won't work by banning adult-preferred flavored tobacco products. Moreover, this ban would undermine public health by pushing the sales of these products to the illegal market where criminals don't care about checking IDs.
10. Banning the sale of adult flavored tobacco products to adults 21 and older is not good policy for Oregon. We share Oregon's goal that kids should not use tobacco products, but Prohibition is not the answer. Instead, Oregon should focus on better options that don't hurt licensed retailers, like education, cessation support, and underage prevention.