

Submitter: Emily Soules

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3090

Chair Nosse and members of the House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

The Oregon Small Business Association asks for your opposition on House Bill 3090, which would close small businesses, push products to the illicit market, and would be ineffective at keeping teens safe.

In 2020, the Oregon Vaping Public Health Workgroup recommended raising the price of tobacco and nicotine products as the most effective way to reduce youth use. Furthermore, the CDC noted that increasing the unit price of tobacco products reduces the total amount of tobacco consumed, reduces tobacco use prevalence, increases the number of people who quit tobacco use, reduces the number of young people who start using tobacco, and reduces overall tobacco-related morbidity and mortality – along with associated health care costs. Oregon’s 65% tobacco tax substantially increased the consumer price of vapes and tobacco products. These measures are an effective approach to keeping youth safe.

Massachusetts and California, two states that have banned flavored products, are suffering from illegal sales, unregulated and untaxed products, and have struggled with these products getting smuggled into the state.

Oregon is already struggling to enforce its previous laws on nicotine products. We need better enforcement of laws on the books, not new laws that shut down small businesses and create an illegal market.

The problem isn’t flavors. The problem is weak enforcement. Please oppose House Bill 3090.