

Opposition to Oregon HB 2528

Hello- my name is Tom Eshleman, and I work as the Director of Tobacco for a family-owned company that is in the Wholesale Distribution business, and I am writing to oppose HB 2528.

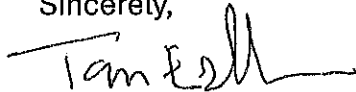
The policy for Tobacco and Nicotine products should be dealt with through the legislature and should be debated so that all parties can be included and heard properly. If we just grant the power to make decisions to an unelected bureaucratic agency this does not allow businesses such as ours that contribute to the Oregon economy a voice to be heard.

Also, who is overseeing the OHA? My fear is they will make frivolous decisions that will hurt many small business owners and jobs in Oregon without regard to sound discussions and a commonsense approach.

It isn't the answer to just keep adding shy- high tax to items like Nicotine pouches, with if you weren't aware just received approval from the FDA. So why do we want to punish adult who want something other than traditional tobacco items. I can attest to even in our small business we have had several people who have moved away from traditional cigarettes and as I do with anyone, I see using these products – I ask them why and they all say they feel it is a healthier alternative to smoking. I have yet to find a person who started using Nic Pouches that just decided to start for no reason. If you look at the Scandinavian countries where the Nic Pouches started in, you will find substantiated studies of reduced cancer rates, and this can be attributed to the move away from cigarettes to these items.

Also just to keep adding higher and higher taxes to these items isn't the answer either. There comes a point that this isn't fair to the consumer and also adds a much larger burden on wholesale businesses such as ours. So please do not vote in favor of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Eshleman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tom Eshleman