

Submitter: Mayamba Ibrahim
On Behalf Of: Quality Sounds Inc. dba The Outpost
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Good afternoon, Joint Ways and Means Committee Members

My name is Mayamba Ibrahim. Thank you for coming out to hear from us. I would like to talk to you today about Senate Bill 702, the flavor ban on tobacco products.

I along with my family own 4 retail tobacco and general merchandise stores in Oregon. My father-in-law started his business in 1977 just down the road in Madras, OR. I am blessed to work with several of our family members and employees, who also become family.

For over 40 years we have been responsible retailers, following the laws and making sure our products are sold legally. We work hard to train our employees on the laws as they change.

I agree that youth vaping is an issue that should be addressed. But including menthol cigarettes, cigars, and smokeless tobacco makes no sense. National data shows that youth cigarette smoking has declined to historic lows. Also, cigarette smoking among all age groups has fallen dramatically over the last 15 years. This happened without a policy of prohibition and that's because regulations meant to prevent underage use can only work if tobacco products are distributed and sold through licensed, legal businesses like ours. We require all of our employees to check ID. We take responsibility seriously.

That is why I implore you to oppose the ban on flavored tobacco products. This legislation will have a devastating impact not only on my business but also the retail industry in Oregon. It takes away rights from adults who are of legal age to purchase these products. In addition, a total tobacco flavor ban won't end the sale of these products in Oregon. It will simply create an illegal market and encourage an increase in criminal activity. We all lose in that case.

Now more than ever, I'm looking to our lawmakers to make the right decisions to help small businesses get back on their feet. I will lock arms with our Legislators to limit youth access to tobacco, but this ban is not the right way. Instead of protecting kids this ban would result in a loss of jobs, loss of wages, and represent a potential annual loss of over a hundred million dollars in state tax revenue.

As a business owner, I'm deeply concerned about Oregon's financial challenges and the uncertainty of potential federal cuts. A flavor ban would be devastating—not just for businesses like mine, but for the state as a whole. It would mean massive

revenue losses and increased costs for enforcement and public safety, all while fueling a larger illicit market. Oregon simply can't afford this.

I urge you to oppose Senate Bill 702.