

February 9, 2021

BILL: SB0410
TITLE: Cigarettes, Other Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices - Local Law Authorization
POSITION: SUPPORT
HEARING DATE: 2/11/2021
COMMITTEE: Finance
SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer

Climate XChange Maryland supports Senate Bill 0410 - the **Cigarettes, Other Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices - Local Law Authorization** that authorizes a county or municipality to enact and enforce local laws regulating the sale and distribution of cigarettes, other tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices. One size will not always fit all when it comes to our state laws. Maryland's cities and counties are extremely diverse. What works for the city of Baltimore may not help the Eastern Shore succeed.

Uneven regulations and industry targeting mean that low-income neighborhoods are often saturated with stores that sell tobacco products. More availability means more smoking. This is one reason why low-income children are exposed to more secondhand smoke than children who live in affluent neighborhoods.

New research points to the need for greater public awareness about the dangers of secondhand smoke from e-cigarettes. The study suggests that most Americans don't realize that e-cigarettes emit toxic chemical particles. If there's a place you wouldn't smoke—like around children—then it's also a place you shouldn't vape.

We must protect the ability of local governments to laws that keep the health and well-being of their residents at the forefront, which is why we need to prevent special interest groups from blocking them.

For these reasons and more, Climate XChange urges a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cc: Chairman Delores G. Kelley and Members of the Finance Committee