

3/1/2024      Opposition to HB 1197

I'm writing to oppose HB 1197. I don't understand a bill that is trying to push a registry in Maryland by an FDA process that is called the PMTA process that has been ruled by a circuit court to be arduous and capricious! Judges called this process "Fatally Flawed" and "Sent ENDS manufacturers on a wild goose chase".

The FDA blanket denied millions of products over thousands of companies by a process that was highly unfair and now we want to use that flawed process to institute a registry in Maryland? This makes absolutely no sense whatsoever.

The only people this benefits is Big Tobacco! They have been the only entity to get through the PMTA process and these high nicotine products will be the only products left on the market! So consumers will have two choices: To vape high nicotine vape or go back to cigarettes that will cause them death and disease!

So this bill is loudly declaring in Maryland that we support Big Tobacco and we support and will protect the interests of huge corporations over the health and welfare of our citizens. Over 7 thousand Marylanders die every year from smoking related illness and over 480,000 people worldwide. This bill is siding with Big Tobacco! I am sure Marylanders will want to know that our state government stands with Big Tobacco and against its citizens and against their citizens health. What a Shame!!

I strongly urge you to vote unfavorably on this bill!

Thank you!

Matthew Milby