



Delegate CT Wilson  
Chair, House Economic Matters Committee  
House Office Building, Room 231  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB 1056- Cigarettes, Other Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices - Revisions (Tobacco Retail Modernization Act of 2024)- UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Crosby, and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee

My name is Shelby Kemp. I am a Marketing Project Manager at Royal Farms. We have 179 stores in Maryland and employ more than 4,000 Maryland citizens. I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB1056. The bill would significantly impact our business and would result in a substantial number of layoffs.

which proposes to grant sole control of the sale of e-vapor products to vape shops in Maryland. As a retailer and an active member of the community, I believe this policy is shortsighted and will have detrimental effects on our businesses and the neighborhoods we serve.

The passage of this bill would result in a considerable loss of revenue for the state of Maryland. Currently, the state collects approximately \$20 million in excise tax revenue from e-vapor products. Prohibiting vape product sales in convenience stores and grocery stores, where most e-vapor products are sold, places between \$17.1 million and \$19.5 million in state revenues at risk. This loss of revenue will have a direct impact on the state's ability to fund essential services and programs.

The intent of this bill ignores the progress made by Royal Farms in preventing youth access to tobacco and other products. We take age-identification seriously and enforce them rigorously for all sorts of products. By singling out these retailers and limiting their ability to sell e-vapor products, we undermine the years of hard work and dedication put into youth access prevention.

I strongly urge you to reconsider the passage of SB1056. The bill is discriminatory, detrimental to our business and unfair. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Shelby Kemp

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shelby Kemp", is written over a light blue horizontal line.