

Dated:21 March 2024

Written testimony to oppose Cigarettes, Other Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices - Revisions (Tobacco Retail Modernization Act of 2024) (SB1056)

As a retailer with a significant presence on the border of the tristate area, I adamantly oppose SB1056 and the disastrous impact it would have on businesses like mine. This misguided legislation threatens to cripple our annual revenue, driving away customers from seeking alternatives in neighboring states or from competitors unaffected by this bill.

As a responsible retailer, we have implemented stringent measures to ensure compliance with regulations regarding the sale of tobacco products. One such measure is the use of Scan ID software, which is utilized for all tobacco product sales. This software allows us to verify the age of customers purchasing tobacco products, ensuring that they are of legal age to make such purchases. By employing Scan ID technology, we not only uphold our legal obligations but also demonstrate our commitment to promoting responsible tobacco sales and preventing underage access to these products.

The repercussions of SB1056 cannot be overstated. Its enactment would precipitate a devastating loss of revenue, placing the livelihoods of our employees in jeopardy and undermining the very foundation of our business. This legislation is not an isolated threat; its effects would reverberate throughout the region, leading to a widespread economic downturn and potentially forcing countless businesses to close their doors.

We refuse to accept this fate without a fight. We demand that lawmakers immediately halt the progression of SB1056 and instead focus on solutions that support the growth and prosperity of local businesses. We will not stand idly by as our hard work and dedication are jeopardized by reckless and short-sighted legislation.

It is time for our voices to be heard. We call on our representatives to prioritize the needs of their constituents over political expediency and to work towards solutions that will benefit, rather than harm, our communities. Together, we can ensure that SB1056 does not become a reality and that the businesses of the tristate area continue to thrive.

Sincerely,



Aslam Gillani