

# Sirhandi Companies

111 N Cove Terrace, Oxon Hill, MD 20745

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Maryland General Assembly

Maryland Senate Bill SB1056

March 26, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

We are operators of convenience stores in the state of Maryland and are voicing our deep concerns over Senate Bill SB1056. We operate the following sites:

National Harbor Sunoco located at 111 N. Cove Terrace, Oxon Hill, MD

Colesville Sunoco located at 8384 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

Hunt Valley Exxon located at 11235 York Road, Cockeysville, MD

White Marsh Exxon located at 8485 Honeygo Boulevard, Nottingham, MD

Maryland House Sunoco located at I-95 MP 82, Aberdeen, MD

Chesapeake House Sunoco located at I-95 MP 93, North East, MD

SB1056 would have a devastating impact on our business and would significantly decrease the sales tax collected by the state and reduce sales of many non-ESD items in our stores. We are responsible store operators and take time on a MONTHLY basis to educate and train our team members on the proper procedure to sell tobacco and ESD products.

SB1056 would cause a proliferation of "vape shops" and other specialty stores which would make it more difficult for customers who seek convenience to purchase ESD products. Our business has worked closely with WMDA and other trade groups to decrease underage use and our team members understand the importance of verifying ID BEFORE engaging in the sale of tobacco and ESD products.

Maryland borders West Virginia, Virginia, Delaware, DC, and Pennsylvania who all sell ESD products in retails and not restricted to Vape Shops. We would lose a great deal of sales to all of the states

given the dispersion of our locations as noted above. This will further reduce the taxes collected in Maryland and exacerbate the budget shortfall which the state is currently experiencing.

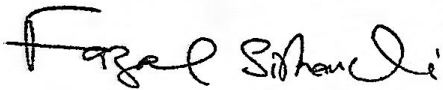
Restricting sales to Vape shops will cause a surge in illicit market which would provide more access to underage persons and put all in harm's way. Our tobacco and ESD sales are done correctly and accurately. We pay our sales taxes to the Comptroller monthly and ALWAYS on time.

We have made a SIGNIFICANT investment in our Maryland locations and we are part of the fabric of the communities we serve. Our customers know us and trust us. Our customers have TOLD us "loud and clear" that they are NOT in favor of SB1056.

We are in the best position to ensure that tobacco and ESD products are only sold to customers who are of age to purchase these items. We work closely with local law enforcement and health agencies to ensure that we operate in 100% compliance of existing Tobacco laws.

SB1056 is an unnecessary and onerous burden to our businesses and will reduce the taxes which we pay to the state of Maryland. Please help US by letting us HELP you by stopping SB1056 now!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fazal Sirhandi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'F' and 'S'.

Fazal Sirhandi - President