

February 23, 2024

Respected Sir/Madam,

I oppose House Bill Number 1073. My family owns multiple small businesses that are greatly impacted by the new tax proposal. We have 20 employees that rely on our business to support themselves and their families. This new bill along with inflation will make it difficult to manage a decent business. When the previous tax increase of \$1.75 happened back in 2021 it hurt our business; now the proposed \$7.50 increase per carton will literally put us out of business. The total carrying cost for our small business will be \$80,000 per year. An increase in tax will not only affect sales for our small business but would increase crime and the sale of tobacco from other states, making it hard for our small business to stay competitive. Thank you for your consideration and please support small businesses.

Sincerely,

Joel Karley
Manager of All Saints Shell
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Laurel, MD 20723