

Hello, I am Minesh owner of Your Store in Berlin and I oppose HB 1073. Owning my own business was my dream and I left Sunoco 14 years ago to start my own business. My customers are everything to me and my business. Lately, times have been tough for them, and this tax increase will only worsen their financial burdens.

I have witnessed firsthand the struggles my customers face on a daily basis. Many of them are forced to pay with spare change or return cans just to afford a simple snack or a lottery ticket. Convenience stores like mine serve as a reflection of the health and well-being of the people in our community. Every day, hundreds of individuals rely on my store to purchase their tobacco, soda, snacks, and lottery tickets.

Over the past couple of years, the prices of these items have skyrocketed, placing an immense strain on my customers' wallets. Despite these challenges, I have worked tirelessly to keep prices as low as possible, ensuring that my customers can still afford the products they rely on. However, this proposed tax increase will only drive my loyal customers away, as they seek more affordable options just eight miles away in Delaware.

By implementing this tax increase, we are not only burdening our hardworking citizens but also pushing them to spend their money outside of our state. This will have a detrimental impact on local businesses like mine, as we struggle to compete with neighboring states that offer lower prices.

Please consider livelihoods of our citizens and the local economy. Let us not place an additional burden on those who are already struggling. Thank you for your time and consideration.