

Name: Mr. Balvir Singh

Name of Store: Landover Exxon

Address: 6579 Annapolis Road

Hyattsville, Maryland 20784

Years in Business: 25 Years

Number of Employees: 7

I oppose HB 1073 for many reasons. First, this bill will devastate my business, the prices on a pack of cigarettes are already sky high, I have lost a lot of business since the last excise tax increase of \$1.75 back in 2021. My carrying cost on cartons of cigarettes will increase by \$31,000 a year with the proposed tax increase. My store will be a prime target for theft and so on due to these price increases, and that puts my employees in danger, safety becomes a big concern.

Inflation has put a big dent in my tobacco sales nowadays. Cigarette customers who used to come to my store four or five times a week, only come once or twice a week. Those cigarette customers don't buy that many items nowadays other than cigarettes due to the prices on all the non tobacco items being high.

Due to all these situations, I won't need all my seven employees who work for me. I'll most likely have to let one or two of them go. This will affect their families, because their families depend on me employing them.

Regards,

Mr. Balvir Singh