

Painters Mill Wine and Spirits

9960 Reisterstown Road

Garrison, MD 21117

February 4, 2020

RE: HB 3/SB 233- Business Regulation - Flavored Tobacco Products - Prohibition

Dear Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

I am writing today to ask you to oppose HB3/SB233 entitled "Business Regulation - Flavored Tobacco Products – Prohibition" As one of many small business owners in Baltimore, I believe my fellow business owners and, more broadly, my fellow citizens of Maryland will suffer from the bill's passage.

My firm, a family owned and operated retail store, believes this proposed flavored tobacco ban could be catastrophic to small retailers like me, as well as my employees and our community, with potentially little public health benefit. We understand addressing flavors in vape products that could lower illegal youth usage, but youth cigarette usage is at historic lows.

Additional other effects on my business would include contraband sales, making my neighborhood less safe as it is associated with rises in other kinds of criminality, not to mention confrontations between potential dealers and law enforcement. Contraband sales could increase the number of cigarettes distributed by these illicit dealers who don't abide by legal restrictions, or the voluntary "We Card" initiative, as my business successfully does. Such sales would undermine the years of progress we have made in reducing underage access to tobacco products.

I can assure you that my business will remain on the front lines of efforts to keep tobacco products out of young people's hands – but this efforts will be in vain if an abrupt menthol ban puts me and other retailers like me out of business.

I respectfully ask that you oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,



Randy Mabin

Manager, Painter's Mill Wine and Spirits