

CIGAR ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

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Bill number: SB937

Position: Opposed

Dear Chairwoman Kelley and the Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Cigar Association of America (CAA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 937. Founded in 1937 as a non-profit trade association, CAA is the premier voice of the cigar industry in the United States. Today, its member companies come from all sectors of the industry and include manufacturers of both handmade premium cigars and machine-made cigars. CAA members manufacture a significant share of the large, premium, little and filtered cigars sold in the United States, and also include internet retailers of cigars, as well as leaf and other suppliers to the cigar industry.

CAA is opposed to SB937 as it believes the regulation of the distribution and sale of tobacco products should be a statewide matter and regulated as such by the State. The State should not allow local governments to ban taxable products and erode state tax collections, while at the same time harming small businesses and creating an illicit market for tobacco products.