

RRMR LLC and RRK LLC
300 East Gude Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

February 04, 2021

Dear Committee Members,

As both a Maryland resident and a small business owner, I am writing to express my opposition and grave concern regarding House Bill 134, which would ban the manufacturing and sale of all flavored tobacco and nicotine products, including menthol cigarettes, flavored tobacco and vapor products. My businesses, RRMR LLC and RRK LLC, own and operate a Shell gas station and Exxon Mobil gas station respectively in the state of Maryland. With the restrictions proposed by this bill, we as small businesses would suffer immense financial loss, exacerbating the challenges and impacts from the pandemic. Our company's revenue and success will be significantly impacted through such a broad ban, because nearly 50% of our revenue is derived from the sale of tobacco and menthol products.

I also believe that this bill would negatively impact Maryland's state economy. When consumers are unable to purchase such a broad variety of retail products in Maryland, it would lead inconvenienced consumers to procure their products from bordering states, taking the revenue away from our state. Instead of supporting a retail environment where sales can be monitored through minimum age-restrictions, constraints on quantities, robust licensing, and developing public educational programs on responsible tobacco use, the banning of these products in Maryland could lead this market to move to illicit and illegal channels, resulting in harmful consequences to our communities.

I strongly believe that House Bill 134 is not in the best interest of small businesses, the state of Maryland, or its constituents. I urge you to reconsider this ban and consider a better approach to legislate the distribution and sale of tobacco and methanol products by enforcing current regulations carefully and promoting education programs to reduce the negative impact to our communities. Thank you for considering my sincere concerns on this issue.

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