

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

My name is haroon ali, 37 years old and an immigrant who has been a state resident for 21 yrs & I own 4 locations 3 of which are gas stations and 1 is Cstore, two of them are in Anne Arundel county, 1 in Baltimore city & 1 in Baltimore county. I urge the committee members to oppose the proposal of bill hb0134 business regulation flavored tobacco products. This proposal will have dier consequences on small businesses & also will open the door for black market of these proposed banned products. The notion that these products are targeting the colored community is simply FALSE as 3 of my businesses are located in racially diverse neighborhoods. I urge the members to know and learn the ground realities, instead of just banning something that should be a CHOICE for adults to make. if this bill passes, the fact that these products will be sold in neighboring states will only encourage drug dealers & opportunist to sell the same products outside of our stores from their cars not to mention all the tax dollars which the state will lose. IT WILL BE SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP THE ILLEGAL SALE OF FLAVAROED TOBACCO.

And when people won't have choice, I believe it will only encourage people to turn to marijuana and other drugs which is going to have serious health risk for FUTURE generations

Now it took me 16 years of hard work to get to the point to own these locations, not to mention the investment of millions of dollars and all the taxes I give to state to help the local economy. This bill will simply tarnish all the effort and years of hard work and I will be forced to layoff half of work force & maybe eventually shut down my businesses and possibly relocate to another state.

I URGE TO VOTE AGAINST THIS BRUTAL PROPOSAL WITH NEGATIVE IMPACT TO LOCAL ECONOMY.

THANKS