

Date: February 3, 2021

Written Testimony to oppose HB 134

I, Dheeraj Gupta own multiple locations in MD, to be exact 5, in Howard, Montgomery and Frederick County. We sell multiple products at our locations, major % being cigarettes, cigars and chewing tobacco. Our annual C-store sales at all our locations combined is about 3.6 Mil. If this ban takes effect, we will lose about 50% of our sales that adds up to those categories.

This pandemic has hit us really bad and we are struggling to keep afloat, and with this ban, I don't think we will be able to stay in business. Not only will it be a loss for us but also a major revenue loss for the counties. This will also force us to lay off majority of our employees.

Banning something only in one state in my opinion only promotes smuggling from neighboring states and the cause is lost.

So please consider this before taking any decision, as it will have devastating effects on the local businesses and their families.

Sincerely

Dheeraj Gupta

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