

February 8, 2021

To the Maryland General Assembly-

This letter serves as our opposition to HB 134. My Name is Ali Kazmi, and I am writing on behalf of My family. We have stores in Baltimore county and Baltimore City and employ people from the local community. To learn that the state of Maryland is considering a ban on menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars Really put a damper on my spirit. The proposal of HB 134 would hurt all tobacco retailers. Tobacco is an important part of my business. Flavored tobacco makes up over 60% of my business. If passed, this proposal would harm businesses like mine that operate throughout the state. A ban on these products would create a loss of revenue, jobs and would shift sales to illegal sources and surrounding states.

My family and I work hard every day, we pay taxes, have the appropriate licenses needed. This extreme measure would make it difficult for us to sustain our business. We ask that you please stand with us in opposing HB 134 and help keep our business open.

Thank you for taking the time to read this heartfelt statement

Sincerely,

Ali and Faheem Kazmi

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Edgewood, Md

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