



Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association
P.O. Box 711 ★ Annapolis, MD 21404
410-693-2226 ★ www.mapda.com

To: House Economic Matters Committee
House Health and Government Operations Committee

From: Ellen Valentino
On behalf of MAPDA

Date: February 10, 2021

RE: HB 134 Flavored Tobacco Prohibition - Opposition

This bill will negatively impact over 7000 business owners that currently have licenses to sell tobacco products in Maryland. We do believe the consequence of such a prohibition will be increased gang and criminal activity as illegal sales will explode. Criminals do not check for ID or collect taxes.

Additionally, we will lose customers to the surrounding states. Massachusetts is a recent case to study having implemented a ban on specific tobacco products. In the first 6-months they have lost over \$62 million in tax revenue, while the surrounding states have reaped millions in revenue increases in the same categories.

We agree with proponents that underage sales and underage tobacco and vape use is a problem and needs to be curtailed. We can work together on this issue.

Feeding and fueling the economy through gas, coffee, food, heating oil and propane.

MAPDA is an association of convenience stores and energy distributors in Maryland, Delaware & the District of Columbia.