

February 7, 2021

To the Maryland General Assembly-

My name is Den Patel, I am writing on behalf of myself and family. To oppose HB 134. We own and operate stores within the state. I am disappointed to learn that Maryland is considering a ban on menthol cigarettes, flavored dip and cigars. This proposal could hurt law-abiding tobacco retailers across the state. I ask that you Please oppose this ban!

A ban on traditional flavored tobacco products will shift sales from businesses like mine to illegal sources and surrounding states.

Tobacco product availability is an important piece of my business. Menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars and dip make up over 50% of that category. If passed, this proposal would harm businesses like mine that operate in your jurisdiction. It targets a large portion of my revenue and would hurt sales by removing products that many adult customers purchase. A ban on these products would have a direct and negative impact on sales, jobs and other economic contributions my business provides to the local community.

Please oppose H.B. 134 the flavor ban on traditional tobacco products. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,
Den Patel

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