



Cato Retail ♦ P.O. Box 1030 ♦ 1004 Parsons Rd. ♦ Salisbury, MD. 21801

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Good Afternoon,

I am alarmed to hear about the proposed ban on menthol cigarettes, flavored dip, and flavored cigars--- even for adults 21+. I ask that you please oppose S.B. 177.

Our business and businesses like ours add to the economy in Maryland. We are licensed, we employ members of our communities, and we pay our taxes. During this prolonged economic slowdown, my business -- and others like mine -- have provided necessities such as bread, milk, and other groceries to thousands of Marylanders, especially those in underserved communities across our state without access to big-box grocers.

Banning these products would undermine my ability to operate by significantly impacting my revenue. Plain and simple: it could force many small businesses to close.

Moreover, this ban will just push the sales of these products to stores in nearby states or, even worse, to the illegal market and criminals who don't care about checking IDs.

Please oppose a ban on menthol cigarettes, flavored dip, and flavored cigars.

Sincerely,

*Eric J. Prandy*

Eric J. Prandy  
Director of Retail Marketing  
Goose Creek Convenience Stores