

Date: January 25, 2021

Opposition to SB 177

Hello Senator,

My name is Sudhakar Inbaraj and I live in PG County. I own my home in PG County and my kids go to private school in PG County. Both my wife and I pay taxes to the State of Maryland and to the PG County.

I completely oppose the SB 177 that bans Menthol Cigarettes/and bans Flavored tobacco like cigars and chewing tobacco. This will devastate my retailers where I live, and I know a lot of them. They're really worried about their revenue coming into the store as well as their employees that they employ if the ban goes through. The retailers would most likely have to lay off their employees if the ban goes through because they might not have the money to employ their workers.

Banning a product or products isn't the solution, when the surrounding states sell these products that you are trying to ban in first place. Customers will go to great lengths to buy their preferred products if another state sells them. Maryland borders with Virginia, DC, Delaware and PA, and those states will be the recipients of additional revenues coming from residents of Maryland who buy adult tobacco products.

Sincerely,

Sudhakar Inbaraj