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To; Chair, Senator Kelley and committee members

Regarding SB 177, we are against this bill.

As an industry supplying legal products we have been for all of the age restrictions limiting tobacco and vape products to adult consumers only.

A flavor ban on tobacco and related products will cause enormous detrimental financial losses to the convenience store industry. These businesses have already suffered greatly this year in the current Covid climate. They have had many extra expenses to make their stores safe for consumers just to shop in their stores.

Menthol cigarettes in this market area are near 50% of the sales to adult smokers. Adults should have the choice to buy what they want as consumers.

The federal government has given the FDA the authority to oversee sales of tobacco and vape products. The state should follow the FDA regulations. Enacting your own regulations will chase business to the surrounding states as has happened in other states already.

Fred L. Parsons

Treasurer and partner

The George J. Falter Company