

Good Morning,

My name is Degan and I own multiple stores within the MD area. My store located at 7954 Belair Rd. Nottingham 21236 falls under your legislation

I urge you to oppose this proposal to ban menthol. This proposal is a bad idea because not only will my 4 businesses be put at a disadvantage but so will all the other stores in MD. Right now, I employ over 30 employees. Menthol makes up over 56% of my cig business. If menthol gets banned employees will have to get let go and profits will decrease. Maryland is located around several other states who will still have menthol allowed. When I was talking to my customers they told me to my face "I'll have to drive to Delaware or Virginia if menthol is banned" Illegal activities will start to take place. Buying large amounts of cigs and bring them into MD will begin to happen the state of MD will not be receiving taxes on these items but other states will.

Before you vote to ban think about the long term effect this will have. There are many other business owners like me. Some already cannot keep the lights on due to Covid.

I urge you to vote against this proposal. Thank you.

Degan Kcchhetri