



WMDA/CAR Service Station
and Automotive Repair Association

January 25, 2022

Chairperson: Delores G. Kelley
Members of Senate Finance Committee

RE: SB99 - Local Authorization Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking
Devices

Position: In Opposition

Giving 24 counties and 157 municipalities the authority to change tobacco and OTP laws would create a hodgepodge of regulations that would be confusing to retailers, enforcement and to adult users. What it would accomplish is sending legal buying age resident to a different retailer, at best within the state and at worst to our boarding states that collect no Maryland tax.

In a municipality or county that banned a product or all tobacco products, with no legal retailers close or they are transportation restricted will turn to street sales of illegal tobacco products. Illegal market sales are an ongoing business now. Banning a product would bring about two things – expanding criminal activity within the area and exposing more location for those age restricted to buy product – these locations ask for no I.D.

Retailers have enough regulations to think about while keeping their customer and employees safe. Expenses are up and customers traffic is down. Taking away a product they sell and sending buyer to another location to purchase legally or illegal will hurt retailers, Maryland residents and promote crime while achieving nothing.

Turning Marylanders into scavenger hunters for legal product and criminals for buying illegal product on the street is not a clever idea.

Please give SB 99 an unfavorable Report

WMDA/CAR is a trade association that has represented service stations, convenience stores and repair shops since 1937. Any questions can be addressed to Kirk McCauley, 301-775-0221 or kmccauley@wmda.net