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Balaram Paudel (Business Owner)
2101 harford rd, Baltimore, MD, 21218

Flavored tobacco products account for 50%–70% of in-store sales, and the business is mostly dependent on flavored tobacco products. With the banning of flavored tobacco products, many businesses in our industry might shut down.

How can you embrace cannabis at the same time and bills like SB 259 ban flavor? Taking away retail customers and store profits. This bill will not accomplish anything except drive business down the tobacco road leading to VA, DE, and neighboring states. Marylanders can bring 5 cartons back to Maryland tax free and legal. Maryland retailers check ID and age requirements; by banning flavors, you are not only hurting honest retailers but enhancing an already robust illegal market that checks No ID and collects No Maryland tax. These illicit outlets are not licensed, taxed, or regulated in any way. Tax revenue from these products is a huge loss, but a big plus for illicit sales.

Regards,
Balaram Paudel