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Subject: Opposition to HB1441 – Protect Small Businesses and Consumer Choice

I am writing to strongly oppose HB1441, a bill that unfairly favors Big Tobacco while threatening the existence of small businesses and limiting consumer access to safer alternatives to traditional cigarettes. If passed, this legislation could effectively ban open-system vapor products, devastating small businesses, eliminating jobs, and significantly impacting the state's economy.

Small, independent vape shops and businesses rely on the sale of open-system vapor products to support themselves and their families. By removing these products from the market, HB1441 will force many to shut down, leading to job losses, tax revenue reductions, and economic instability for thousands of individuals who depend on this industry. This bill does not protect public health; rather, it grants a monopoly to Big Tobacco companies, whose products remain available while safer alternatives are unfairly restricted.

Additionally, banning open-system vapor products will not eliminate demand—it will simply push consumers toward unregulated black-market alternatives, which pose serious health and safety risks. Prohibition has never been an effective solution, and this bill will only encourage unsafe, illicit markets that put consumers at greater risk.

Rather than restricting consumer choice and harming small businesses, I urge lawmakers to consider reasonable regulations that protect both public health and economic stability. Please stand with small business owners, workers, and responsible consumers by rejecting HB1441.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will take a stand against this harmful legislation.

Sincerely,

Casey Deane