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Dear Chair Willson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Committee members:

I support this bill with amendments. This is a great way to crack down on the bad actors within the tobacco and ESD markets. However, the way it is drafted will create more paperwork for an already understaffed state.

I support the goal of this bill giving the ATCC more enforcement authority. This will help to protect public health and provide a fair market for all. I find it necessary to give power to ATCC to seize products that are not to be sold within those certain locations. This will help to keep the bad actors in line in what they are a loud to do and not.

The amendment I would propose would be to require all retailers to obtain a specific ESD retailer license or a vape shop vendor license. This will help to define the retailers by providing a list to the ATCC on what products are to be sold at the specific locations. This will also help the state of Maryland and its consumers because it will regulate the market, ensuring compliance checks, tax laws, and product safety standards.

Currently we have many companies here in the state of Maryland that are not complying with the current sales tax which is hurting small vape shops that only sell vapes. Establishing mandatory penalties for businesses that fail to collect or remit sales taxes on tobacco and ESD products. Within the current situation auditors are overwhelmed and understaffed so we need clear consequences for tax evasion to deter bad actors and protect the good actors in the market.

For those who have a vape shop vendors license should have the ability to sell 5ml or more and would help to regulate our market better. These products should be sold in responsible vape shops that care about the safety of their consumers and public health.