

February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Maryland House Bill 1441 on behalf of TV Vapor, a locally owned vape shop with three stores Maryland. As a small business owner in the electronic smoking device industry, I am deeply concerned that the provisions of this bill will create significant burdens for my business, negatively impact our customers, and ultimately harm Maryland's small business community.

One of the most troubling aspects of HB 1441 is the requirement for electronic smoking device manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers, including small vape shops like mine, to execute and deliver annual certifications to the Attorney General. While I understand the desire to ensure product safety, this provision will impose substantial administrative costs and burdens on small businesses. At TV Vapor, we already face tight margins and increasingly complex regulations. The additional compliance requirements outlined in this bill would strain our resources, diverting time and energy away from providing quality products and services to our customers.

The bill also grants the Executive Director of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission (ATCC) and the Attorney General broad authority to take action against licensed businesses in certain circumstances, which is concerning due to the lack of clarity in what constitutes grounds for such action. Without clear, well-defined standards, businesses could be left vulnerable to arbitrary enforcement, which could lead to legal uncertainty and potentially harm small, independent retailers who rely on consistent regulations to operate effectively.

As a responsible business owner, I am committed to ensuring that my customers have access to safe, high-quality vaping products that can help them move away from traditional smoking. Overregulation in this industry risks pushing consumers toward unregulated, potentially unsafe alternatives. It also risks eliminating options for adult consumers who choose vaping as a harm-reduction tool. In many cases, vaping has proven to be a less harmful alternative to smoking, and excessive regulation could undo the progress made in promoting healthier choices.

Rather than imposing additional burdens on small businesses and limiting consumer access to safer alternatives, I urge you to consider more balanced approaches to regulating the vaping industry. Clear and targeted regulations that focus on ensuring product safety and transparency while supporting local businesses would be more beneficial for both public health and the economy.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I hope you will reconsider supporting HB 1441 and instead work toward policies that protect consumers and support Maryland's small businesses, like TV Vapor.

Sincerely,

Adi Shemi