

I would like to first thank the House Committee for the opportunity today to speak in opposition of the Big Tobacco Bill HB1441

Let me first introduce myself,,Elmer Bailey,,owner of The Vapor Emporium and Principle member of the Maryland Vapor Alliance

Big Tobacco Bill HB1441 will effectively, close the hundreds of legitimate licensed vapor product retailers in the state,,this is not mere conjecture, this is legitimate fact. HB1441 removes all products that hundreds of thousands of Maryland citizens have effectively used as a method of quitting cancer causing combustible tobacco using these safer and as identified by the FDA itself, as less risk and more effective than pharmaceutical alternatives leaving only the very few Big Tobacco HIGH NICOTINE products that are traditional sold thru convenience and liquor store outlets.

The regulations set forth in this bill,,are onerous, unrealistic, and meant to leave the only alternatives available, again,,the HIGH NICOTINE BIG TOBACCO alternatives which are very few.

HB1441 is inherently fiscally irresponsible, It not only creates another layer of state bureaucracy which will not be funded,,as this bill is untenable for any company other than BIG TOBACCO to achieve,,it will cost the state millions in lost tax revenues from the closure of stores, and increased unemployment from the layoff of employees, facts which seem suspiciously missing from the lack of any fiscal notes

HB1441 also decreases consumer safety to the states citizens,,as this will undoubtedly create a black market, force consumers out of state to obtain products, and allow potentially harmful unregulated products to remain.

We have worked diligently and respectfully with our state and local legislators throughout the years to pass responsible and effective regulation and licensing initiatives,, let this pen, (display pen) the very pen which signed into law making Maryland one of the first states to adopt T-21, ahead of Federal legislation, be an example of our dedication to preventing youth access, responsible licensing and regulations in the state,,note,,it was NOT presented to the BIG TOBACCO interests which opposed such legislation,,and is yet again, presenting legislation to harm Maryland citizens, close businesses, and create a monopoly for high nicotine big tobacco products

Again,,we respectfully wish you to consider an unfavorable recommendation
THANK YOU AGAIN

Elmer Bailey