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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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**Testimony in Support of SB0918 - Business Regulation - Electronic Smoking Devices
Manufacturers – Certifications**

Madame Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and fellow members of the Senate Finance Committee:

SB0918 would require that all businesses that manufacture, distribute, or sell Electronic Smoking Devices (ESDs) in Maryland obtain a specific ESD license, eliminating the existing license exemption that exists for businesses that sell cigarettes or other tobacco products. Removing this exception will allow the State to better know who is doing ESD business, aiding the State's ability to enforce the law.

This bill will drastically improve Maryland's ESD marketplace by bringing much needed improvements to existing ESD law to ensure that ESD businesses are operating lawfully and fairly in Maryland. Further, this bill closes an existing loophole that permits manufacturers to sell directly to individuals over the internet. In addition, the bill creates an ESD directory where ESD manufacturers must apply to the Office of the Attorney General each year for certification and admission onto the directory.

From an enforcement perspective, SB0918 gives the ATCC express authority to conduct inspections of ESD businesses, just as it has for traditional combustible cigarettes and provides the Department of Health the ability to refer violations of the law to ATCC for further enforcement action.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB0918.