

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Dear Chairman and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to you as the Chief Operating Officer of TV Vapor, a local business with three vape shop locations in Maryland. I strongly oppose Senate Bill 918 and believe it poses serious risks to small businesses like ours, our employees, and the local consumers we serve.

SB 918 will impose significant and burdensome certification requirements on small businesses in the electronic smoking device industry. For companies like ours, this bill would create an insurmountable financial and administrative burden that could force us to close our doors. As a small, family-owned business, we cannot compete with the resources of large tobacco corporations that will have a much easier time navigating these regulations. This bill disproportionately favors big tobacco and threatens the livelihoods of local business owners and their employees.

Furthermore, the bill grants excessive regulatory power to the Attorney General without clear parameters, creating the potential for overreach and inconsistency. Without a clear and defined framework, businesses will be left uncertain about their obligations, which can lead to costly legal issues and penalties.

Additionally, the risk of product bans due to this bill will disrupt our ability to provide safer alternatives to traditional tobacco products. Local shops like ours offer a vital option for smokers seeking a less harmful alternative, and the closure of small businesses would further limit consumer access to these options.

I urge the committee to reconsider the provisions of SB 918 and its impact on small businesses in Maryland. Rather than imposing unnecessary and potentially harmful regulations, I encourage you to consider more thoughtful and balanced solutions that promote both public health and the viability of small businesses.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,  
Ashley Kessler  
COO, TV Vapor