Nicholas Anthony
2027 Old Home Ave
Pasadena, MD 21122

Firstly, I'd like to thank the members of the committee for hearing our concerns today regarding SB0918. My name is Nicholas Anthony and I'm writing today in opposition of the proposed bill.

The text of the bill is extremely alarming as it is another glaring example of a bill tailored to benefit the interests of big tobacco. If passed, this bill would remove diversity from the market leaving only products manufactured by big tobacco companies and limit the choices of consumers to only EXTREMELY high nicotine content products. It should go without saying that this is an awful idea and poses a huge risk to the health and well being of millions of Marylanders.

Further, this bill would all but ensure the closure of thousands of small businesses who offer products that compete with the aforementioned big tobacco products. Products that not only compete with but, in fact, offer a lower dose of nicotine to the end user. Marylanders who currently are cutting down their use from, say, 12mg to 6mg or 3mg, would be forced to decide between going cold turkey and quitting or being forced to use devices that are 50mg of nicotine. It doesn't take a statistician or panel of experts to see that this is not in the best interest of your constituents.

The economic impact of this bill is likely to be devastating as well. Maryland vape shops that sell open systems (lower nicotine devices) account for a HUGE portion of monthly sales tax revenue that the state depends on to keep our deficit somewhat manageable not to mention these shops employ thousands of Maryalnders.. Losing that revenue would be substantial and potentially catastrophic. Losing the jobs could also put further unnecessary strain on our unemployment insurance programs.

I urge the committee to see this bill for what it is. Another attempt of the tobacco industry to pass legislation to further its interests at the peril of Marylanders and Maryland small businesses.

Thank you for your time.

Nicholas Anthony