

February 25th, 2025

Dear Chairman and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to formally oppose Senate Bill 918. While the bill aims to regulate electronic smoking devices, I believe it is flawed and poses significant risks to small businesses and consumers in Maryland.

The bill unfairly favors large tobacco companies by imposing burdens that small businesses simply cannot afford. Smaller manufacturers and retailers, particularly local vape shops, will struggle to meet the certification requirements, leading to closures and reduced competition in the marketplace. This bill ultimately benefits big tobacco at the expense of small businesses, undermining both the local economy and consumer choice.

Moreover, SB 918 grants excessive authority to the Attorney General to regulate these businesses, creating potential for overreach and inconsistency. The lack of clear guidelines in the bill only adds to the uncertainty, making it difficult for business owners to understand what is expected of them and to comply with the law.

The bill also introduces the risk of product bans, which could further harm small businesses and restrict access to safer alternatives to traditional tobacco. This heavy-handed approach will not solve the problem of public health but will only hurt local entrepreneurs and consumers who rely on these products.

I respectfully urge you to reconsider SB 918 in its current form. I believe the bill, as written, will have a detrimental impact on small businesses without offering clear or effective solutions for public health concerns.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Golan Arie