

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

My name is Meadow Skipper, and I am an employee of Vape Jungle, a small business dedicated to providing adult consumers with access to regulated, safer alternatives to traditional tobacco products. I am writing today in strong opposition to SB 0918, a bill that, while framed as consumer protection, ultimately serves the interests of Big Tobacco at the expense of Maryland's small businesses, adult consumers, and public health.

## **Concerns About SB 0918**

SB 0918 grants the Attorney General exclusive power to determine which vapor products can be sold in Maryland. However, the bill does not provide clear guidelines or criteria for how these decisions will be made. This lack of transparency raises serious concerns about fairness, consistency, and potential bias in product approvals. The costly fees associated with product registration would also disproportionately favor large corporations while shutting out small businesses like ours.

## **Risk of Product Bans & Public Health Consequences**

One of the most alarming aspects of SB 0918 is the high likelihood that it will ban open-system vapor products, which are widely used by adult consumers seeking low-nicotine alternatives to cigarettes. This would leave only high-nicotine, pre-filled products—primarily sold in convenience stores—as the remaining options. Ironically, these are the very products most often linked to underage use, as data consistently shows that youth obtain vaping products from gas stations and convenience stores, not specialized vape shops.

By eliminating open-system products, the bill would also drive adult consumers toward either unregulated online websites or back to cigarettes—both of which are far greater threats to public health.

## **Economic Impact on Small Businesses & the State**

The economic consequences of SB 0918 cannot be overstated. Small vape shops across Maryland would be forced to close, leaving only large corporate retailers to dominate the market. This would not only eliminate jobs but also deprive the state of significant tax revenue. Estimates suggest that the financial losses resulting from similar legislation in other states have exceeded \$100 million. Additionally, the bill would encourage consumers to seek products from unregulated online sources or neighboring states, further diminishing Maryland's control over product safety and taxation.

## **A More Balanced Approach**

If the goal of SB 0918 is truly to protect consumers, then a more balanced approach is necessary—one that includes transparent product approval processes, fair regulatory costs for

small businesses, and a focus on keeping vapor products out of the hands of minors without eliminating responsible adult access.

I urge you to reconsider this legislation and work toward a solution that does not hand the vaping industry over to Big Tobacco while pushing small businesses and consumers into the shadows. Thank you for your time and consideration.

### **Not to mention -**

This would put several people like myself out of work. Working to help people quit smoking cigarettes has been a dream. We follow every law put in place to keep young vapers off the streets and make sure our products are sincere and safe. We buy from honest distributors to make sure our devices and vapes are regulated and won't cause consumers issues along the line.

Non vape shops like gas stations and supermarkets, etc. - Will purchase from anyone they can online, not having any knowledge of the products they are selling. This could cause harm to unknowing customers and these other sellers are the cause of young people getting their hands on e-cigarettes and disposable vapes.

If you actually look at the studies from 2024, vaping amongst youths has been the lowest it has ever been in recent times. The main problem is **actually** tobacco pouches they can buy from any convenience store. This is the real problem, not vape shops like my own.

Sincerely,  
Meadow Skipper  
at Vape Jungle Lothian

[skippermeadow@gmail.com](mailto:skippermeadow@gmail.com)

443 (822)-5869

---