



WMDA/CAR Service Station
and Automotive Repair Association

Chair Kriselda Valderama and member of Economics Matters Committee

RE: HB918 Baltimore City -Cigarettes, Other Tobacco Products, Electronic Smoking Devices- Local Laws Authorization

Position: Oppose

My name is Kirk McCauley, my employer is WMDA/CAR, we represent service stations, convenience stores, and repair facilities across the state as a non- profit trade group established in 1937.

HB918 would allow Baltimore City to enforce stricter tobacco Regulations, driving purchases across city borders, empower illegal street sales where there are no age verification or state tax collection. Sales are already on the street, and this would enhance those illicit sales.

Eliminating preemption in Baltimore would place store owners at a significant economic disadvantage and cost the State of Maryland tax revenue. If controlling product sold is a concern a Product Directory as Maryland has for tobacco would be something we have advocated for and would make sure ESD and Vape products are tested by independent lab and certification is submitted to ATCC before product is legal to sell,

In FY2025 Maryland State Tax Revenue on cigarettes was \$390,443,546.00. [2025 ATCC Tax Annual Report](#) This amount was collected by retailers who pay taxes and do age verification checks, do not open the gates to other counties and cities wanting the same, reducing state revenue, opening of more illicit markets.

WMDA/CAR asks for an unfavorable vote on HB918.

Any questions, contact to Kirk McCauley, 301-775-0221 or kmccauley@wmdacar.com