



Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association
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TO: House Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association

DATE: March 4, 2026

RE: **OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 918** – Baltimore City – Cigarettes, Other Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices – Local Laws Authorization.

On behalf of Maryland's convenience stores and energy distributors, MAPDA opposes House Bill 918 – legislation authorizing the City of Baltimore to enact its own laws governing the sale and distribution of tobacco products including electronic smoking devices (ESDs).

MAPDA members - convenience store owners and operators - share the sponsor's concern about the proliferation of "smoke shops" in Baltimore. Our stores take great pride in distinguishing themselves from these locations - offering fresh food options, over-the-counter medication, and more.

As introduced, this bill would undermine the current licensing and regulatory authority for tobacco products. This authority has always rested with the General Assembly. It allows a consistent standard for all jurisdictions and avoids a patchwork of local laws for these products. While limited to Baltimore City, HB918 creates a precedent for local authority.

An alternative to HB918 would be a statewide product directory. This idea is not new to this committee. It was considered in 2025 – [HB1441](#). An ESD directory can be an effective tool to stop illicit activity and prevent the sale of counterfeit products. It empowers the state to reinforce federal law and further empowers wholesalers and distributors to know which products are in compliance. Pennsylvania and Virginia now have product directories. They passed in both states by wide margins and with bipartisan support.

MAPDA members support sound licensing and regulation. Should the committee want to move forward with this bill, we would ask it to amend the legislation to reflect the establishment of a product registry.

For these reasons, MAPDA respectfully requests an unfavorable committee report on HB918.

Feeding and fueling the economy through gas, coffee, food, heating oil and propane.

MAPDA is an association of convenience stores and energy distributors in Maryland, Delaware & the District of Columbia.