

To state legislation vt

I am writing to express my strong opposition to S18, the proposed ban on flavored tobacco. As a small business owner and a firm believer in the American dream, I am deeply concerned about the potential devastating impact this ban would have on my business and the state of Vermont.

I understand that the committee is considering pushing the effective date of the ban by a year. While this may seem like a compromise, it merely postpones the inevitable. We will still face the same issues when the ban eventually comes into effect. This delay does not address the concerns raised by the ban, nor does it provide any meaningful solutions.

Furthermore, I fail to see how this ban will effectively curb underage usage. If preventing underage access to flavored e-vapor tobacco products is the primary concern, I urge you to consider alternative measures. For instance, why not focus on stopping online sales of e-vapor products, which has a mere 40% compliance rate? As a responsible business owner, I am committed to ensuring that my products are sold responsibly. I am the first line of defense from keeping tobacco products out of the hands of anyone under 21 – as I do with flavored alcohol. I believe that education, awareness, and responsible regulation are key to addressing the concerns surrounding flavored tobacco usage. By working together, we can find a balanced approach that protects public health while also supporting the livelihoods of small business owners like myself.

Pushing out the effective date for Senate Bill 18 will only delay the inevitable. Although I am not an expert when it comes to politics, this seems only to be a political maneuver to avoid the fiscal impact to the state rather than sound legislation. Furthermore, regarding my adult tobacco consumers, they find it perplexing that Vermont is making decisions for them. In a way, Vermont is telling them that they are not intelligent enough to make their own decisions so the state will decide for them.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have doubts about this legislation, I implore you to explore the right solution rather than pass legislation that will be damning to my business, adult tobacco consumers and Vermont taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Utsav Patel – Bennington