



Andes Variety, Inc
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April 19, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

As a business owner, I am disheartened to hear that lawmakers are once again considering a ban on flavored tobacco. Current laws and regulations are working. Maine just recently changed the law to a legal age of 21. Please give the law time to work.

Retailers are the first line of defense when it comes to preventing kids from purchasing tobacco products. We take this responsibility very seriously and enforce the legal age of 21 by checking IDs. What this law would do is take these products from legitimate businesses who check IDs to the illegitimate businesses who don't care about the age of the people buying. Sales would move to the criminals who don't care who they are selling to. Criminal networks will feed the demand, and continue to do so without paying taxes, checking IDs, or following any other rules or regulations.

This ban would undermine our ability to operate as this is targeting a significant portion of our revenue. Adult customers who purchase flavored tobacco products also purchase gas, food and other items that our store depends on. We pay taxes, create jobs and support our local community. This ban would not only hurt our business, but it could have devastating effects in our community as many small businesses may be forced to close due to this ban.

I urge you to please oppose banning flavored tobacco products. It would have negative effects for many local small businesses, our communities and for the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

Craig Stewart
Owner