

Dear Distinguished Members of the Standing Health and Human Services Committee,

Jason Davenport
Warmings Market, Brunswick
Resident, Portland, Maine

As the owner of Warmings Market in Brunswick, I am hopeful and optimistic that our state Legislature will vote to end the sale of flavored tobacco products in Maine.

I purchased Warmings Market about five years ago. Just before purchasing the market, the decision was made to stop selling all tobacco products. This includes cigarettes, pipes, cigars, vapes, e-cigarettes, Juuls, and chewing tobacco.

Warmings Market is located within a couple of miles of Brunswick High School and about a half mile from Brunswick Middle School. While we would card anyone who would purchase anything that requires the buyer to be a certain age, we also understand how frequently people purchase things for younger people, despite the detriment to their health and safety. In addition to being close to middle and high schools, we are also close to a college campus. People can purchase things legally for younger friends. We know this can - and does - happen all the time.

Packaging of tobacco products - and in the case of flavored tobacco, the products themselves - are [designed to appeal to younger people](#). With people [starting to smoke or vape as young as 13-15 years old](#), we don't need to be giving them the temptation when kids come into our store to buy snacks, drinks, or lunch.

As a member of this community, our younger customers weighed heavily on our decision not to sell tobacco. Tobacco products are easily transportable. The use of flavored tobacco products can be masked more easily because the smell doesn't stick to clothing as much as traditional cigarettes, even though both are addictive and potentially harmful.

Our customers are overwhelmingly supportive of our decision not to sell tobacco products. That doesn't surprise me. It also doesn't surprise me that [about two-thirds of likely voters in Maine support a law to end the sale of flavored tobacco products statewide](#). Flavored tobacco products like Peppermint Mocha, Orange Soda, and Banana Blast are being [sold for e-cigarettes to hook younger people](#). It's obvious. It's simple. And it's disgusting.

The people of Brunswick agree. The Town Council received public testimony that overwhelmingly favored ending the sale of flavored tobacco products in town. Councilors heard from students and public health representatives, school officials and medical professionals, substance abuse counselors and more. It is imperative that Maine ends the sale of flavored tobacco products when it comes to a vote. Maine lawmakers have the chance to do what is right and protect our kids.

The tobacco companies have tried telling us that vaping is a harmless alternative to smoking. We now know that is not true. Please do the right thing and listen to pediatricians, parents, teachers, and our kids. The next logical step is to expand this policy statewide. Please vote yes on LD 1215, which would end the sale of flavored tobacco products throughout the state. It is a good policy for Bangor. It's good policy for Portland. It's good policy for Brunswick. It is a good policy for South Portland. It is a good policy for Bar Harbor. And it's good policy for Maine.

I'm hopeful that you will do the right thing and vote yes and advocate for LD 1215, to end the sale of flavored tobacco products in Maine.

Thank you.