



Good afternoon,

We are writing in today in reference to the meeting for the state wide flavor ban.

East West Distributors is a New Hampshire based company that also services the state of Maine.

We saw firsthand the effects of the Massachusetts flavor ban. When the ban took effect, we noticed immediately a significant increase in sales of flavored tobacco to our New Hampshire customers that border Massachusetts. By implementing a Maine statewide flavor ban you would be reducing the tax revenue that would be collected, and New Hampshire would be benefiting from this. Much like Massachusetts, it is likely that several "Mom and Pop" stores would be forced to close and possibly reopen across the state border, due to lost sales.

It would be prudent to wait until the FDA makes a final decision as to how they plan on handling the flavor tobacco sales in the United States. The FDA has said it plans to announced these guidelines in the fall of 2023. Removing the need for each individual state to take their own action. By waiting for the FDA guidelines, The State of Maine will continue to collect the tax revenue that the good people of Maine could use.

Thank you for your time.

Harry Shaw

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