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5/12/2025

Senator Tepler, Chair
Representative Doudera, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 754 – *An Act to Ban the Sale, Use and Possession of Single-use Electronic Cigarettes and to Review Extended Producer Responsibility Options for All Batteries*

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, thank you for the opportunity to provide information in opposition to LD 754, *An Act to Ban the Sale, Use and Possession of Single-use Electronic Cigarettes and to Review Extended Producer Responsibility Options for All Batteries*.

This bill prohibits the sale, use and possession of single-use electronic nicotine delivery devices (including electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic pipes, electronic hookahs and so-called vape pens) and establishes penalties for violating the prohibition. The bill also directs the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to convene a stakeholder group of interested parties to review the feasibility and viability of establishing an extended producer responsibility approach to all batteries not currently covered by such.

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) has concerns about the provision within LD 754 imposing fines for the use or possession of these certain products, something that was removed from Maine's tobacco retail sales laws in 2017 and is incorporated in Maine's current Tobacco 21 law. Removing penalties associated with youth possession is an evidence-based strategy to focus punitive aspects on those who provide youth with the products. Another item to note is that the proposed penalty for a possession violation is inconsistent with those specified for violating provisions established for retail tobacco sales (22 MRS §1555-B).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions during your deliberation of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Puthiery Va", is located below the "Sincerely," text.

Puthiery Va
Director
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Maine Department of Health and Human Services