

Dear Health & Human Services Committee Members,

My name is Peter DiPietrantonio, I writing to you as a resident and small business operator in Biddeford, Maine. My brothers and I own Three D's Variety convenient store and we employ 4 Maine residents. I am disappointed to hear that the Maine State Legislature is considering a ban on menthol cigarettes, flavored dip, and flavored cigars across the state. I urge you to oppose this measure.

We agree we need to address underage vaping. We support FDA restrictions on flavored vapor products. The ban on all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, makes no sense. It will multiply the existing illegal market in Maine, reward criminal smugglers, and cost Maine businesses, workers, and taxpayers billions of dollars.

Maine's small business owners have struggled to keep their doors open during this prolonged economic slowdown. Not only have gas and in-store sales been impacted, but I've also had to invest in additional safety measures resulting in unforeseen costs negatively impacting my bottom line.

My cousin owns several stores in New Hampshire, and he has seen a significant tobacco sales increase since the Massachusetts Menthol Ban. It is inevitable that the same will happen if Maine passes a flavor ban as well.

This broad ban on flavored tobacco products would jeopardize a significant portion of my revenue and quite frankly, could force my business to close its doors. A ban on these products would put thousands of Maine jobs at risk.

I urge you to vote against LD 1550. Please do not move forward with such a broad ban.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Peter DiPietrantonio

*Three D's Variety Store, Inc.
165 Maine St. Suite 102 Biddeford, ME*