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Good Day Maine Representatives and people of Maine Communities. I am submitting my typed testimony in regard to my Opposition of Bill LD-1550. Simply put, it is my humble opinion that legislating flavors, or lack thereof, is as arbitrary of an argument as any, and does nothing to actually combat the very specific "Under-Age Use" issues you kind folks have spoken of on many occasion. The sheer amount of Maine citizens that have managed to successfully convert over to vaping from combustible tobacco habits, will widely claim, they were only able to do so, because of the abundance of flavors that were NOT tobacco related or based. With that said, I myself am a Maine citizen who vapes, as well as works in a local Vaping retail business that provides jobs to Maine communities, Revenue to our fine towns, and tax dollars for the state in general. Your proposed bill will absolutely lead to further issues that you are not thinking about either.

Unresolved Issue #1: Striking flavors does NOTHING to hinder the adults that still provide these items to minors (how else you think kids get them?...it ain't from us directly, we card EVERY-one upon entry to our stores)

Unresolved Issue #2: Hundred's of Maine citizens that have successfully switched to vaping, will suddenly be without any option! As a result? - they will likely revert back to combustible tobacco's if the vape flavors they've grown to love are abolished. (and adults are still buying cigarettes for minor's too! Notice your flavor bans on those have done nothing to stop kids from lighting one up!!)

Unresolved Issue #3: All the laws and bills thrown at our industry in the past few years, and there has still been NO effort put forth in enforcing MORE punitive consequences for those found guilty of actually being the one providing to minor's...Most times we hear about it? The adult in mention gets a fine and a slap on the wrist...

Then you have the domino effect issues:

Domino Effect #1: Striking flavors will most certainly cause a majority to revert away from, and back to combustible habits once again...so you're ok with folks switching from something studied and shown to be less detrimental than traditional smoking -- in exchange for legislation that has already failed elsewhere, and will likely accomplish equally little here?

Domino Effect #2: With more and more folks likely going back to traditional tobacco habits, businesses like us will likely falter and fail, causing the loss of dozen's of jobs for Maine Families, loss of revenue and tax dollars to the community, and in turn some families may face relocating for the sake of income.

Domino Effect 3#: There will still be underage issue's far after we (the vaping industry) are done away with by your proposed bill, but after us there will be no one left to blame.....or tax further for that matter....

Please.....please, reconsider this bill.....time and time again those of us that thrive in this industry have come to you fine folks and offered to bring you in at shoulder level with us, thus allowing us to show you the in's and out's of this industry so that we may better work together in the regulating and legislating of matters at hand...and every time, we eventually end up back here, battling another proposed bill that stands at the ready to decimate our corner of the state's economy.