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A flavor ban is nothing more than gaining more governmental power and control over its "free citizens" I do not believe it is for public health. In this country we have the right to choose our sexuality, pick our own occupations, live where we want, drive what we want, eat what we choose, drink what we like, smoke marijuana, watch pornography, gamble our money away, and sleep on the streets. But, for some reason using a healthier nicotine alternative that has flavor is being demonized.

This industry is bringing millions of dollars of revenue and tax into a state that has been devastated by the corona virus pandemic. Under constant scrutiny and tightening regulations you as representatives seem to find it morally acceptable and good timing to shut the doors of countless smoke and vape shops. Putting thousands of employees out of work and taxing an already heavily burdened unemployment system. This is the last thing the state of Maine needs right now. I quit smoking traditional combustible cigarettes over 7 years ago using a flavored nicotine product. Seems to me, you would like to see tens of thousands of Mainers to go back to smoking and truly do not care about offering healthier alternatives to adults.

Please stop using our children as your pawns to push your agenda. Flavored pipe tobacco, chew, wraps, cigars etc. are not an issue with the youth. Large open refillable systems used with vaping are not an issue with the youth. This bill is too broad and casts a large net banning many products that unfortunately are caught in the crossfire. Why is it ok for me to go down to the local store and purchase flavored alcohol? Stop by the nearest beverage center and purchase a drink filled with caffeine and sugar in it that is highly addictive and proven to cause diabetes? Eat at fast food restaurants that cause obesity. Grab a THC laced brownie, nerds rope candy or anything else I find attractive? As a child I grew up being taught how addictive and bad marijuana was, sitting in on countless hours of DARE. Look at our society now. Maybe we didn't know back then as much as we do now about marijuana. Just like the vaping industry. You will look back and see how ignorant it was to ban a healthier alternative to smoking. No matter what kind of product we're talking about there is always someone or some group who abuse it. More often than not I hear how people abuse the medical marijuana system in Maine. Yet, it is legal. Why? Because evidence shows it is beneficial to many Mainers.

Ironically enough last time I was in the state house there was a glass cabinet filled with Maine grown blueberry infused alcohol and other adult beverages. Please ask yourself why is there no push to ban these products. Is it because you yourselves use 1 or more of them occasionally or on a regular basis? Companies have spent millions of dollars on the PMTA process to make sure their products are less attractive to kids over the last year or so. The PACT act has been established and enforced to prevent underage adolescents from having these products shipped to their homes. All sales must be done in person at a store proving the person is of the legal age. Give these systems some time to work or it was all for nothing. I urge you to have a sit down with some of the professionals in the industry to talk and fully understand the differences between devices and other products. There is certainly a lack of understanding these products which you choose to regulate. You as representatives are missing the mark with this bill and accomplishing nothing positive, creating a black market. Forcing more and more business out of your state to surrounding states killing an already weakened economy. If you vote this bill in please have the decency to go around to all the stores and look those mothers, fathers, struggling college kids earning a living in the face and tell them they're out of work. Maybe they should try relieving some stress with some marijuana or a bottle of wine.