

## Written Testimony Template FLAVOR BAN

Dear Legislator,

My name is Jeff Leadbetter, I am writing to you as a resident and small business operator in Bangor, Maine. My business operates 8 stores in Bangor, Brewer, Bucksport and Orono and employ approximately 75 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, but banning all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, makes no sense.

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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Leadbetter", written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Leadbetter