

Justin West
Broadway Variety

My name is Justin West, I writing to you as a resident and small business operator in South Portland.. Broadway Variety is a very busy convenience store and employs 19 Maine residents. I am disappointed to hear that the Maine State Legislature is considering a ban on menthol cigarettes, flavored dip, flavored cigars, and flavored E-cigarettes across the state. I urge you to oppose this measure. I foresee my customers flocking to neighboring states where they can still legally purchase these products. When they make these trips, it negatively effects the companion sales we have on items such as liquor, beer, wine, soda, snacks, and even lottery tickets. Maine will lose the tax revenue on these products and the other companion products we sell. It's a lose-lose proposition all the way around.

Maine's small business owners have struggled to keep their doors open during this prolonged economic slowdown. Every day is a test of our ability to stay open. We will be ok, but only if you don't hurt us while we are down. Now more than ever, I'm looking to our lawmakers to make the right decisions to help small businesses get back on their feet.

Legislators should focus on more important things during an economic crisis than compounding the economic hardship convenience store operators are currently facing.

This broad ban on flavored tobacco products would have a significant negative impact on my business. A ban on these products would put many Maine jobs at risk. This proposal will do irreversible harm to Maine's small businesses at a time when they are most vulnerable.

I urge you to vote against LD 1550. Please do not move forward with this flavor ban.

Thank you for your consideration,

Justin West
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