

Jennifer Gray
Gotts Store-Bass Harbor, ME
LD 1693

Good afternoon,

My name is Jennifer Gray. I am the owner of Gotts Store in Bass Harbor, Maine. I am very upset to hear that the state of Maine is looking to pass LD 1693. We are an essential part of our community and work very hard to remain open and fully stocked, especially during these trying times. Legislators should focus on more important things during an economic crisis than compounding hardship convenience store operators are currently facing.

As far as banning flavored tobacco products go. Retailers are the first line of defense when it comes to preventing kids from purchasing tobacco products. We take this responsibility very seriously and we take every training precaution to make sure that these products don't land in the hands of youth.

According to the National Association of Convenience Stores, tobacco is the top revenue generator, accounting for 38.8% of in-store sales nationwide. Increasing the excise tax could hurt legitimate retailers when adult smokers shift purchases across state lines or to other outlets, such as the internet. This would negatively affect Maine's 1,900 retailers. Please consider voting against LD 1693.

Thank you,
Jennifer Gray