

Stephen Priller
Bangor
LD 1693

Hello,

I am writing to you on behalf of bill LD 1693. I currently operate a small business in Bangor, ME that employs 11 Maine residents. I am disappointed to hear that the state of Maine wants to impose a \$2.00 SET increase along with a total statewide flavor ban.

We have worked diligently to remain open and stocked with essential items as well as to support our employees and customers. This proposal will do irreversible harm to Maine's small businesses at a time when they are most vulnerable.

Retailers are the first line of defense when it comes to preventing kids from purchasing tobacco products. We take this responsibility very seriously. Don't use the youth vaping epidemic to cause many other problems with a ban on traditional tobacco products, such as increased crime and illegal activity in our communities.

Total state tax-paid cigarette sales in Maine declined an average of 1.1% a year for the last ten years. If this trend continues or accelerates, the Maine government will collect less revenue from cigarette excise taxes over time resulting in large funding gaps.

I urge you to vote against LD 1693.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Priller
Store Manager, Doc's Place