

Pat Thorne
Windham, ME
LD 1693

LD 1693

Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Pat Thorne, I writing to you as a resident and small business operator in Windham, ME. My business employs 12 Maine residents. I am disappointed to hear that the Maine State Legislature is considering raising cigarette taxes in addition to a ban on menthol cigarettes, flavored dip, and flavored cigars across the state. I urge you to oppose this measure.

My business has been paying taxes, creating jobs, and supporting the local economy of Windham community for 24 years. This tax increase and flavor ban would have devastating effects on our community. The town of Windham relies heavily on the influx of tourism each year. If this bill passes, a significant part of our volume would decline. The impact of this bill will not only be felt in the tobacco category. If tourists are purchasing their tobacco products in NH or any surrounding state, we will also lose a significant part of any other convenience items such as beer, wine, spirits, etc. This pandemic has put great strain on the entire industry and now is not the time to impose these bans and taxes. Every day is a fight to stay open and I ask that you oppose this bill for the sake of my business and others like mine. Thank you for your time,

Pat Thorne
Patman's Redemption & Agency Liquor Store
Windham, Maine