

Edna Urquhart
Hansen's Outpost-Bass Harbor, ME
LD 1693

Hello,

My name is Edna, I am the manger of a small business here in Maine. The store I manage Hansen's Outpost employees roughly 24 Maine residents. I am really disappointed to hear that you are considering passing LD 1693.

We have experienced firsthand the extreme measures it takes to operate in the current environment and recognize the overwhelming challenges our communities face during these trying times. 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.

A ban on flavored tobacco products would cause great harm to our business. Adult customers who purchase flavored tobacco products also purchase gas, food, and many other items that our store depends on to remain open.

An excise tax increase could provide incentives for smuggling and other contraband activities, resulting in lost tax revenue. According to the former chief of the Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement Branch for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives "The smuggling problem is pervasive. As many as one-fifth of all cigarettes purchased in the United States annually-about 3 billion packs-are sold illegally. Nationwide, these illicit sales result in \$3 billion to \$7 billion a year in lost tax revenue to states and localities."

I really urge you to consider voting against LD 1693.

Thank you,

Edna Urquhart
Manager, Hansen's Outpost