

To,
The Legislation Dept,

- If the cities get permission to take decisions to pass the regulations related with tobacco products whether to sell or not than it will be a major impact in the Tobacco industry. It will be a big impact for all the retailers in Rhodeisland. Almost 1500 retailers in 39 cities & towns will be affected. As some of the stores will be getting advantages & some of them will be losing overall sales within the business. In fact the cities will be losing revenues & it will be also impacted to the state's revenue.

- For a small business owners it will be a big impact & the small business owners can be out of the business. I am a small business owner & I do have my local adult customers who get there tobacco products & other products from my store as it's convenience for them at one stop purchase. If they don't get their tobacco products within my store & if they have to go to different city or town to get their tobacco products than I will loose entire sales. So I will be loosing that customer & also my store sales. It will be a impact on my store revenues.

Even with the pandemic situation we did kept the employment & if we get hit with these kind of regulations from the city not selling Tobbacco products than it will be hard for us to survive for ourselves & keeping employment. City will also loose water, sewage, tangible taxes. Real estate taxes,etc. If the business get shutdown.

- Local health Dept. Should not be making decisions about such things as state has wider visions & resources. They do have more resources & information from the Federal government. It should be the state policy & regulations which city has to follow it. As the state having more resources about the Tobbacco industry so they can handle it properly. The policy & regulations should be uniform across the entire state. It will be easy for law & enforcement Dept if it's uniform across the state. Eventually it will lead to bans & could destroy overall business & led to black markets & state will loose revenues.

There should be no reason that one city is having different regulations than a neighboring city.

- It will be a real bad impact overall for all retail businesses if these ordinance get passed.

So kindly please try to consider the point of a small business owner how they can survive & please don't pass these bill. (5633)

Thankyou
RONAK PATEL