



WMDA/CAR Service Station and Automotive Repair Association

March 16, 2020

Chairman: Delores G. Kelley
Members of Senate Finance Committee

RE: HB 3 Flavored Tobacco Products – Prohibition

Position: In Opposition

Banning menthol and flavored tobacco products will have unintended consequences to adult and youth trying to purchase tobacco products, taxes received and retailers.

Retailers in Maryland are still working out yearly wage increases, paid and unpaid sick leave and now we have a worldwide recession in the making. Menthol tobacco products average about 58% in our member sales statewide and in some areas 65%.

While adults will have no problem buying from other sources – surrounding states and illegal street sales neither of these outlets pay state taxes or ask for I.D. When it comes to underage sale of tobacco products or OTP, street sales will explode and along with easy access.

The best way to protect Maryland youth, collect taxes, and keep retailers in business along with thousands of employees is to give HB 3 an Unfavorable report.

WMDA/CAR is a trade association that has represented service stations, convenience stores and independent repair shops since 1937. Any questions can be addressed to Kirk McCauley, 301-775-0221 or kmccauley@wmدا.net