



Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association  
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To: Senate Finance Committee

From: Ellen Valentino  
On behalf of MAPDA

Date: January 28, 2021

RE: SB 273 Electronic Smoking Device Regulation Act of 2021  
Oppose

This bill is unfairly targets businesses by dictating the legal products they may sell. Restricting tobacco/vape products solely to specific shops negatively impacts thousands of convenience store owners, service station dealers, and other retailers that sell tobacco and vape products by stripping away their ability to sell certain tobacco vape products.

Don't pass this bill. Here's why.

1. This bill is too impactful and controversial to pass during a session that is extremely limited in public comment.
2. It is inherently unfair to take away the sales of certain tobacco/vape products from retailers who have always had the ability to obtain a license and sell those products, and to pave an exclusive right for VAPE SHOPS to profit and sell those same products.
3. COVID's impact on the retail community is unfolding...and devastating. For instance, sales in some convenience stores were down as much as 70% from pre-pandemic levels. This is an important context when deliberating over new retailer product prohibitions and mandates.

We can agree with proponents that underage sales and underage tobacco and vape use is a significant problem and needs to be curtailed. We believe we can work together on this issue.

**Feeding and fueling the economy through gas, coffee, food, heating oil and propane.**

MAPDA is an association of convenience stores and energy distributors in Maryland, Delaware & the District of Columbia.