

Hendel's, Inc.

April 21, 2015

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3700
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: HB 7059, AN ACT ESTABLISHING REGISTRATION FEES FOR SELLERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE PRODUCTS

Dear Chairman Berger, Chairman Fonfara and members of the Committee:

As a professional working in the convenience store industry here in Connecticut, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the fees proposed in HB 7059 for the application and renewal of an electronic nicotine delivery system certificate of dealer registration. These proposed fees are extraordinarily high and would be a significant expense for businesses here in Connecticut.

The proposed five hundred dollar fee per location for the electronic nicotine delivery system certificate of dealer registration is actually ten times more than the fifty dollar per location fee for a cigarette dealer license in Connecticut.

In addition, the one hundred dollar application fee is four times higher than the twenty-five dollar fee in neighboring Rhode Island for a similar application. This means that retailers in Connecticut that want to sell these products will incur a \$600 expense for the first year and a \$500 expense thereafter.

It is likely that, for a number of retailers, these costs will make carrying these products uneconomical even though some customers seeking an alternative to cigarettes may want them. As a result, many of these sales could be lost to the internet or other sources where sales taxes may not be paid and age verification may not occur. This outcome would not be good for consumers, stores or our state.

I respectfully urge you to not support these extraordinary fees on stores here in Connecticut.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns,

Steve Salveggio

Director of Operations
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