

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my opposition to HB06283 concerning e-cigarettes and vape products. This bill will not accomplish its goals to ensure public safety or generate tax revenue for the state. In fact, the unintended consequences of the bill will do the exact opposite.

I am a former smoker that has used e-cigs/vaping to quit smoking and live a healthier life. , I have done extensive research on the risks of benefits of vaping and the evidence overwhelmingly shows that vaping is a healthier alternative to tobacco. Unfortunately, there is plenty of inaccurate, unsubstantiated propaganda out there against e-cigs base on substandard research or absolutely no research at all. My concern is that this sort of misinformation may be driving the reactionary proposal of this bill.

From a business standpoint, it is glaringly obvious to me that if e-cig/vape products are classified as tobacco products and taxed in a similar fashion, it will create a competitive barrier for the CT vapor industry by inflating CT prices and forcing consumers to purchase their products from online stores or brick and mortar stores in other states. This will lead to decreased sales of vape products in CT, therefore forcing the industry out of business in the state. No vape stores in the state means eliminating jobs, and the substantial tax revenue (sales tax, income tax, property tax) associated with the growing vape industry in CT.

If CT consumers are purchasing their e-liquids and vape supplies online, the State of CT will have no control over the safety or quality of the products and therefore not ensuring public safety for its citizens. It may also encourage an unregulated black market for vape products in the state. People may also attempt to make their own e-liquids with unfortunate consequences. Similar legislation in other states has proven that this bill will create all these unintended consequences.

I agree with the intentions of this bill. As a resident of CT, I know it's important to generate revenue for the state. I also want regulation of the vape industry in the state to ensure that all vape products sold in state are safe. However, this bill is not the solution and will not accomplish such goals.

As a voter, a vaper, and a concerned citizen, I ask that you do not support HB06283. I ask that you consider alternative strategies to foster revenue growth for the state and ensure public safety relative to e-cigs/vaping.

If you would like to contact me to discuss my position further, please email me or call me at [203.343-6636](tel:203.343.6636)

Thank you!

Michelle Dowling