

Konrad Jackson

From: Chuck Butler <hawkingrage@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:08 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: HB304

Good morning, Chairman and committee and thank you for allowing me this time. My name is Charles Butler and I am the sole proprietor of Alaska Vapery. A local Liquid maker for the Vapor Industry here in Alaska. I smoked for 19 years. Nothing worked to fully quit. From cold turkey, patches, gum and medications. Nothing worked for me till i found my first personal vaporizer. That day I quit smoking for ever and that was just a little over 6 years ago. When I started smoking I bought my cigarettes for \$1.30 and as the years went by I was eventually paying 8-12\$ per pack. That price increase never stopped my desire to buy the next pack and I am sure there are many more like me.

I make Liquid for 4 shops here in Alaska. 3 in anchorage and one in Soldotna. I do not use cheap product for my final result. I use Kosher, pharmaceutical grade Vegetable glycerin. Not the food grade product you find at Walmart. I use flavors from 2 of the most reputable flavor makers in the united states. My nicotine is sold in .3% and .6% to volume. The Vegetable glycerin consists of 85-90% of the bottle, The nicotine consists of 0.30-.6% of the bottle and the rest is the flavoring. I only make low nicotine product.All my Labels say that This product is not to be sold to Minors as well ask keep away from pets and children. My Bottles also have the Child Proof drip tip lids. This is my first year making Liquid for shops after 5 years of making for myself. I do this because when I started, I made better liquid than i could find in the market available at that time. I gave myself the right to know exactly what was going into it.

If this bill passes I would like to give you some simple numbers. Lets make numbers easy and say I spend \$2.50 to make a bottle and after the tax i will pay \$5.00. That means ill have to sell my bottles for \$10 and in turn the shop after taxes will pay \$20.00. this will force the shops to sell the juice for \$40.00.

So the price of this liquid now will be a deterrent to our customers who enjoy keeping business local. Forcing them to buy else where or back to cigarettes as they will now be cheaper than the healthier alternative. This will drive higher smoker numbers or people who spend their money out of state.

I would like to close by paraphrasing a quote I saw in the past. Vaping is a Consumer Solution to a big tobacco Problem. While The electronic cigarette may not be labeled as a cessation device as of yet, I can tell you from personal experience that this has changed and saved my life. I ask that this Bill be put down or to remove the electronic cigarette from this bill as it is written. Thank you.

Charles Butler