

Good afternoon Chair Claman and members of the House Judiciary Committee.

For the record my name is Steve Mapes owner of Mapes Vapes in Kenai and a member of SFATA. I am testifying today to oppose SB15.

I am submitting my testimony on SB 15 on behalf of my store, as a 50 year resident of Alaska, and as a member of the Smoke Free Alternative Trade Association. (SFATA)

This bill is redundant and is a waste of Alaskan legislature's time and Alaskans already limited government monies.

The FDA (federal) regulations, known as the Deeming regulations, which pertain to personal vaporizers, electronic smoking devices, and nicotine products, have addressed the age requirements for sales of nicotine delivery devices and nicotine products in all states.

The vape shops in Alaska are adhering to federal regulations already. We are subject to FDA spot checks and random walk through inspections. All vape shops have the age requirements for Alaska posted on entry doors and are required the I.D. of customers that appear younger than 27 years of age, as required by the FDA regulations.

We are in the business of getting adults off tobacco products and offering a healthier alternative to smoking. Our little store in Kenai has helped 304 folks get off cigs and chew in the last 14 months and the number climbs upward every month.

Since the federal government has already outlawed sales of vapor products to minors, there is no need for Alaska to waste time and money doing the same thing.

The wording of this bill makes it legal for parents and guardians to purchase nicotine products for minors under their supervision. When minors are detained by the police for vaping or smoking the costs start to go up for the state. This IS going to take up more time, create more work and expense for the police, courts and state paid lawyers.

Maybe if the sponsor of this bill would be willing to pay for the cost of enforcing it I could be on board with it. Please use your time this session figuring out how to decrease the state spending instead of adding to the financial burden the citizens of Alaska must bear.

Thank you for your time.

Steven Mapes  
Owner, operator

Mapes Vapes

