

Circle K
3360 E. Olympic Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90023

Councilmember Jose Huizar
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street, Room 465
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Ban on Flavored Tobacco -- Oppose

Dear Councilmember Huizar:

I write to you today to voice my strong opposition to the proposal to ban the sale of flavored tobacco. I respectfully request that the city conducts a thorough economic impact evaluation before an ordinance is brought to council. I know that I am not the only retailer concerned about the financial impact a ban on flavored tobacco will have on my business. A significant loss of sales on thousands of retailers should give the city pause. Our customers can easily take their business to retailers in other cities and they will if the council adopts this ordinance.

I have owned a convenience store in your district for over 17 years, a few years ago I upgraded my store to a Circle K. I intended this to be an investment for growth with a nicer store and a better and safer environment for my customers. My timing was unfortunate because since Trump has taken office, most of my customers have been too afraid to go out for fear of ICE. Plus, it has been difficult to attract new customers given the neighborhood, but news that the city is considering a ban on flavored tobacco scares me.

If you take flavored tobacco from my shelves, I will be left with water, juice and hotdogs. How am I supposed to support my family without a product that drives foot traffic and sales of my other grocery items? As it is, I work 12-13 hours a day in my store, I can't cut my labor cost to make up for the 30% loss of business from flavored tobacco. I would be left with no other recourse than to declare bankruptcy. That would not be good for me, the city or the neighborhood I serve. An empty store front is the last thing anybody needs or wants.

Please fully evaluate the impact a flavored tobacco ban would have on thousands of local businesses and the city before you consider an ordinance.

Best,



Mike Monowar
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