



Bill 1333
Morgan Julian to: matt.bishop@state.co.us

05/01/2019 05:06 PM

Good afternoon, committee members. Firstly I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak here today. My name is Morgan Julian and I am the assistant manager of Jvapes North in Colorado Springs. I am here today to implore you to vote no on bill 1333, which will impose a 62% tax on vapor products. As someone who is a former smoker, and someone who gets to share in the joy of others for renouncing traditional Tobacco products, this breaks my heart. Not only will it put thousands or more out of work, it will diminish the hope of our cherished customers. People who we've known and developed friendships with over the years, and people who we've seen succeed with vapor products, people who don't believe trying to better yourself should be deemed a luxury. I would like to use my father as an example. He smoked cigarettes for over 30 years, and tried to quit countless times to no avail until he was introduced to vaping. The affordability of an alternative that actually worked for him gave him the success he was desperate for. With how heavily he smoked, and how long he smoked we weren't sure how long he was going to be with us however, having access to vapor products changed his life. He is now in better health than he was ten years ago and is able to watch his grandson grow up. My fathers story is just one of hundreds I've heard or been involved with, in my years in the vaping industry. So I urge you vote no on bill 1333 so we are able to continue to affordably better peoples lives.

Thank you

**Bill 1333****Tanner Brainard** to: Matt.bishop

05/01/2019 05:07 PM

Hello Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Tanner James and I am a crew supervisor at Jvapes in Colorado Springs. I am here today to urge you to vote no on Bill 1333, which will enact a 62% tax on vapor products.

I have struggled with asthma all my life, and I was raised in a family of smokers.

Despite my asthma, I started smoking tobacco at 15 years old and by the time i was 19 i was smoking 2 to 3 packs of cigarettes a day.

At that point in my life I was unable to walk up or down stairs without having an asthma attack.

The worst part is, I knew my health was getting worse and still, I couldn't stop smoking.

In 2012 I found e-cigs, and thought maybe this could help me stop smoking . I tried them for a year in use with cigarettes and had some success reducing my tobacco use.

In 2013 Jvapes opened right near my home and was the first place i was able to find a solution that helped me quit.

I have been tobacco free since May 2014, Vaping helped me quit smoking and I am so thankful I can breathe again. I dont need to carry an inhaler everywhere I go, and I can go skateboarding every chance I get with my friends.

Please vote no on Bill 1333 if you care about friends or loved ones who need help quitting. Big tobacco wants us to fail, please help us, help you.

Thank you



Written testimony in opposition to HB19-1333

Corbin to: matt.bishop

05/01/2019 05:09 PM

I am contacting you as a small business owner and Veteran here in Colorado that will lose his business if this bill it to pass.

We are a very small vapor shop that caters to our core group of people of the ages 25 to 60 whom desire to switch from using combustible tobacco products to vapor products.

Last year alone we collected and transferred \$16,622.99 tax dollars to the state, county, and the city we do business in. If this bill were to pass that revenue to the state, county, and city would be gone.

We have been in business since late 2015 and have been helping people stay away from combustible tobacco products, to date over 3,500 of your constituents have logged in to our loyalty rewards program. And the core of our business revolves around over 350 people we see continuously in the shop every month that are committed to vaping and staying away from combustible tobacco products.

We are not big Tobacco!!

Regardless of what you think about e-cig's / vaping. It has been proven 95% better than combustible tobacco products (ie. smoking)!!

Our Association battles under age vaping every day. No one under 18 should ever vape or smoke. This tax proposal would kill the industry and make vaping no longer a viable option for ADULT Smokers.

Thank you for your time.

Corbin Elliott



The lack of hearing the entire testimony.

Joan Poston to: Matt.Bishop

05/01/2019 06:38 PM

Dear Mr. Bishop,

Please enter this statement into the record about 1333 bill.

I strongly protest my Senators limiting the testimony on any bill. This is overreach by the Democratic controlled legislature. I believe it will open this bill up to suits based on the First Amendment. Freedom of speech is being limited because there is a ground swell of people upset about unchecked government.

I plan to bring this to the next Town Hall that Governor Polis has this Saturday. Too late for this session but part of the ground work to RECALL.

Joan Poston
Sent from my iPhone



HB19-1333

Shylo Harlan to: matt.bishop@state.co.us

05/02/2019 10:28 AM

Dear Mr. Bishop,

I am writing today to express the reasons I oppose HB19-1333.

First, if this bill is passed, it will put local vape shops out of business. I know you've heard testimony from Senator Fields stating that would not happen, but believe me, sir, I have done the math. My business can not sustain a 62% tax. If my business, along with other local vape shops, were to close, from what vape business would you be collecting 62% tax?

In addition, if this bill passes, Colorado will lose a substantial amount of revenue due to lost sales tax, payroll tax, and income taxes. My small business alone provides the state and my town approximately \$50k a year in tax revenue. If this bill passes, I can guarantee you that it will put me out of business and my employees will lose their jobs.

My wife and I have spent the last 6 years pouring our hearts, time, sweat, and tears into this business.

I have to believe that being a productive American and making an honest living still means something. Although, this 62% tax has me wondering. It seems its become less about public health and more about tobacco revenues.

I understand that a tax should be in place, I'm not arguing that point, but a 62% tax is unjust. The reason this bill was put in place was to stop the vaping epidemic in youth. When Pennsylvania put a similar tax in place, they thought the same thing. Although, the opposite happened.

It would be heart-breaking for me to lose my business over this detrimental HB19-1333 and its proposed 62% tax. I urge you to oppose HB19-1333.

Thank you,

Shylo Harlan

Again, please oppose HB19-1333.



Re: Testimony for last nights financial committee hearing hb19-1333
Denver Vapor to: Matt Bishop

05/02/2019 12:34 PM

Sorry about that!

HB 1331 Speech

My name is Shanna Finch, I am a native of Colorado and started a small retail vape business with my Mom and Brother (Vail Valley Vape and Denver Vapor) I want to start by stating that I am a lifelong democrat; however, my experiences with this bill have me questioning my affiliation. I believe in protecting human rights, public education, and individual liberties. I also believe in protecting the needy and keeping those with power in check.

I'm here to tell you, most retail vape shops are not rich and powerful. We are not big tobacco and do not want to be associated with those companies. We are mostly small business with one or two stores. We love our customers, communities, and employees. Politicians love to say that small businesses are the backbone of America, and yet here we are fighting for our futures against a bill that punishes small business owners and our customers.

Speaking for my stores, Denver Vapor and Vail Valley Vape, we want to work with our local government, not against them. We support mandatory I.D. checks, staying in compliance with regulations, and would even support a reasonable nicotine tax. 62% is not reasonable. In areas that have implemented a similar tax, a majority of local stores had to close their doors.

HB1331 appears to us to be a thinly veiled attempt to cut the industry off at its knees, and I say that this bill is taking the easy way out of a complicated issue. Instead of tackling the issue of teen vaping with us, this bill will kill the entire market which is very important to adult former smokers such as myself and many of my friends and family.

My customers are outraged by this bill. Many are fearful of returning to cigarettes. I personally have many family members who have been lifelong smokers and made the switch. My father, for example, suffered from COPD and other complications from cigarettes. His doctor is very pleased with his improvements in lung function and blood pressure since he has started using a vape instead. I implore all members of the senate not to rush this legislation.

On Thu, May 2, 2019 at 11:50 AM Matt Bishop <matt.bishop@state.co.us> wrote:



HB19-1333 Opposition Testimony
Carissa Maskus to: matt.bishop

05/01/2019 10:52 PM

Hello, my name is Carissa Maskus and I have signed up to testify against this bill. My written testimony can be found below as follows:

I am a Colorado native. One thing that I have always loved about the state of Colorado is that it has been an increasingly progressive state. Time and again, I am encouraged by the positive steps this state has taken towards initiatives, ideals, and an overall mindset that sets us leaps and bounds ahead of other states in the country. The legalization of marijuana is one of many examples of this progressive attitude.

However, with this new proposed 62% tax on nicotine products, I feel like this will be a gigantic step backwards for the state and has the potential to do more harm than good. In essence, what this tax is supposedly claiming is that teen vaping in Colorado is an epidemic. The actual definition of the word epidemic means “a widespread occurrence of an infectious disease in a community.” While becoming addicted to substances is essentially an infectious disease that ravages the entire country, the addictive nature of some substances other than nicotine are less regulated but can be more harmful.

What I'd like you all to do is think about another teen “epidemic” that has never been addressed by the government before. Teens around the country, are consuming energy drinks in dangerously increasing numbers. Multiple experts over the last decade have all agreed that energy drinks pose a threat to this nation's youth and their health. There was an article released two days ago, that reveals data from a survey taken between 2003 and 2016 by the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey . Thirteen years is more than adequate to measure the increase in consumption of energy drinks in the adolescent population of the United States.

Between 2003 and 2016, the survey collected data from approximately 33,000 individuals. About two-thirds of these individuals were adolescents and young adults. The most significant increase in caffeine intake came from the adolescent group. This survey showed that the average intake of caffeine in mg within the adolescent population jumped from 52.1 to 227.0 per day. High caffeine intake can affect our teenagers in more negative ways than not, causing risk for obesity, increased risk for heart disorders such as arrhythmias, high blood pressure, sleep-, digestive-, and anxiety-related problems.

There are currently zero regulations on who is allowed to consume these beverages, based on age. What that essentially means is that our adolescent population, or even younger, can walk into any convenience store and purchase these drinks without parental knowledge or consent. Children and teens have died due to an overconsumption of these caffeine riddled drinks. The only thing, by law, the FDA is expected to do is put a warning on the packaging that states this beverage contains caffeine, but they do not regulate the amount of said additive whatsoever. So instead of focusing on a completely unregulated group of products, this tax will punish an entire population for the actions of a minority group within.

Please consider a shift in focus for the health and safety of our teens. Thank you.

I can supply articles I have referenced as bibliography if needed.

In closing, what this boils down to is an exponential tax that has not had enough time to go through a deep vetting process. Negotiation on a middle ground would be a more feasible than anything this bill is attempting to

accomplish.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my testimony.

--Carissa Maskus

WRITTEN TESTIMONY SHEET

DATE: 5-1-19

NAME: James Pedersen

SB/HB # and Title: Consumers

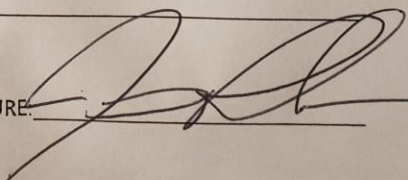
PHONE #: 720-717-2728

PRIME SPONSORS: _____

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:

I'm Against the Tax. I have seen what cigarettes does ~~to~~ to low & middle class families that smoke. I lived through all of it. My Parents would rather buy Cigarettes. I don't want other kids to go through with what I have went through. I do know kids going through it right now. This is not the way to ~~sove~~ solve it. I heard things like ~~the~~ vape products are a dollar. I ~~wa~~ would like to find that. Do Not Pass this.

PRINT NAME: James Pedersen

SIGNATURE: 

My name is Loralie. I work at Vapergate in the production facility and have experience in the retail stores. I have seen how both sides work in the industry and the amazing results that we produce. Vaping studies have proven to be 2x more effective than other nicotine replacements, and are estimated to be 95% less harmful than combustible tobacco cigarettes. The vaping industry has grown significantly; as the global vapor products market is now estimated to be worth \$22.6 billion up \$4.2 Billion from 5 years ago and the U.S. is one of the largest markets. Most sales of e-cigarettes come from specialty shops or online sales where proper I.D checks are standardized. I and my coworkers have always turned down any underage shopper who was trying to make a purchase and we have had multiple encounters. There are many crazy stories to tell but we have always been safe, respectful, and upheld the law in every circumstance. We are an amazing growing company with wonderful people to work with and even more inspiring customers who are more like family. They have changed my outlook on working retail, which has been the last 10 years of my life, and to admire people's tenacity in wanting to make a change in their life. Everyday another person decides to take the giant step in trying to quit the cancerous concoctions we call cigarettes, and they come to us. We do our best with the research and knowledge we know thus far about electronic cigarettes to help people make the right decision for them. There are many different options and with technology these days we can only improve. Lawmakers can help PROTECT tax payers by focusing on addressing the cost drivers in the budget and putting together a spending plan that is based on available revenue. Adding a 62% tax will only compound the state's economic challenges without addressing the real source of our fiscal woes. An analysis on the effects of Pennsylvania's 2016 40% wholesale tax, showed no evidence on deterring youth use; it actually increased. And after 1 year, over 120 vape shops closed. One study has shown that over the next 25 years, if 1% of Medicaid recipients switch to vaping, that Medicaid health care savings could be over \$2.8 Billion per 1% of enrollees. If voters choose to approve this bill, we are only ensured to see the negative effects it will have. We should not have to live our lives surrounded in fear. The type of fear that removes the unique spark that our community shares. The very same spark that serves as the base in which our industry thrives. Our individual lives will forever be changed, what was once a safe haven for adult lives that were sculpted by an even more dangerous life shattering addiction, will then serve as a path back to the very same cancerous concoction. Even if the effects are not immediate, the long-term consequences further outweigh the short term goals set in motion. The people should have a voice, and mine is saying no! No to the vapor tax. Yes to more promising compromises to expand our growth as a community.