



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 344</b>		DATE: <b>2/12/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ALI AL KHARSAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-487-2227</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>GAS MART 46</b>		TITLE: <b>OWNER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>2600 LEMAY FERRY ROAD</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63125</b>
EMAIL: <b>ali@gasmartgas.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 10:33 AM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

I am a business owner in St. Louis County. I employ 3 people. MO HB 344 is a massive bill for small businesses like mine and I hope you support.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ALI RASHID</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-537-7369</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>GAS MART 45</b>		TITLE: <b>OWNER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>9765 MACKENZIE ROAD</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63123</b>
EMAIL: <b>alirashid50@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 9:35 AM</b>

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I am a business owner in St. Louis County. I employ 6 people. MO HB 344 is a massive bill for small businesses like mine and I hope you support.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 11:55 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARSHAD BUTT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>917-325-4551</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>KC1 STAR</b>		TITLE: <b>CO OWNER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1501 CLEVELAND AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>KANSASCITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64127</b>
EMAIL: <b>arshad_nyc@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 3:29 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

Witness FormMissouri - House of RepresentativesHearingBillsHB 344 - Keathley - TOBACCO  
PRODUCTSHB 437 - Hardwick - SETTLEMENT DEMANDSHB 794 - Baker - LOCAL ELECTION  
AUTHORITIESTestify AsIndividualLobbyistBusiness/OrganizationHB 344 - Keathley - TOBACCO  
PRODUCTSReasonIn Support OfIn Opposition ToInformational Purposes



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRENT KLUESNER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>636-390-3639</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>SISBRO ENERGY, INC., DBA OTTO XPRESS</b>		TITLE: <b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>300 CEDAR ST</b>			
CITY: <b>WASHINGTON</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63090</b>
EMAIL: <b>brent@otto-x.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 1:49 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

I am a business owner in Washington, MO. I employ 14 people. MO HB 344 is a massive bill for small businesses like mine and I hope you support.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRITTANY BAYLEY - MURRAY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>618-382-2334</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>HUCK's MARKET</b>		TITLE: <b>VP OF MARKETING</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1311 MAIN STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>CARMI (WHITE)</b>		STATE: <b>IL</b>	ZIP: <b>62821</b>
EMAIL: <b>bbayley@hucks.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 2:48 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

Dear Members of the Missouri Legislature, My name is Brittany Bayley, and I am the Vice President of Marketing for Huck's Convenience Stores. We operate 132 locations across five states, including 12 stores in Missouri. Our stores offer a wide range of products, such as fresh and prepared foods, beverages, fuels, beer, tobacco, and vapor products. As a 100% employee-owned company, we are proud to be a part of the Missouri communities we serve. I am writing to respectfully request your support for House Bill 344 and Senate Bill 231. These bills are essential to prevent local governments from enacting their own local regulations on tobacco and nicotine products, ensuring a uniform, effective statewide policy for retail tobacco and vapor sales. While no local governments in Missouri have yet passed ordinances regulating tobacco, Kansas City has been considering a ban on flavored tobacco, and other cities could quickly follow suit. Once local governments begin enacting their own regulations, it will create a confusing and inconsistent landscape for tobacco and vapor product sales. With 12 stores across 11 different cities in Missouri, navigating a patchwork of local laws would present significant logistical challenges. This would require constant adaption, additional resources to ensure compliance, and the risk of inadvertently violating local laws where regulations differ. Such a burden would be especially challenging for businesses, particularly those operating across multiple states with varying regulations. Allowing local governments to regulate tobacco products, such as through flavor bans, would harm businesses and consumers alike. Customers would simply drive to neighboring cities or cross state lines to find the products they want, leading to lost revenue for Missouri retailers. A patchwork of regulations would make it harder for businesses to operate efficiently, and smaller retailers would face even greater difficulties. Consistent statewide regulation on tobacco is crucial to keeping Missouri's businesses competitive and ensuring the state's economy remains strong. Furthermore, statewide preemption is crucial for protecting Missouri's tax revenue, which funds important programs. Local ordinances that ban certain products would harm businesses and jeopardize the state's ability to collect taxes from tobacco sales. By supporting House Bill 344 and Senate Bill 231, you would ensure that Missouri maintains a consistent, statewide approach to tobacco regulation, which benefits both businesses and consumers, reduces unnecessary government regulations, and prevents a confusing regulatory environment. Please support House Bill 344 and Senate Bill 231 to ensure a consistent regulatory environment, protect Missouri's tax revenue, and provide the stability businesses need to operate efficiently across the state. Thank you for considering this important issue. Sincerely, Brittany Bayley-Murray Vice President of Marketing Huck's Convenience Stores 1311 W. Main Street Carmi, IL 62821



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRYAN SNYDER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>636-675-2939</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>LIT CIGAR LOUNGE ST. LOUIS; LIT PIPE AND CIGAR</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>17049 N. OUTER 40 RD</b>			
CITY: <b>CHESTERFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63005</b>
EMAIL: <b>bryan@litstl.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 10:31 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Dear Members of the Committee, I am writing today as the owner of two small businesses in Missouri to express my strong support for HB344. This legislation represents a crucial step forward in fostering a fair and business friendly environment in our state. As the owner of LIT Cigar Lounge St. Louis, a premium cigar store and lounge, and LIT Pipe and Cigar on Historic Main Street St. Charles, I have firsthand experience with the challenges that our Missouri businesses face from local municipalities. The State of Missouri has aggressive tobacco laws in place, and we applaud the measures that the State has taken to protect Missouri minors. We comply with all laws and regulations and take aggressive steps to ensure minors do not consume our products. Yet we face the possibility at any time that a local city or county council could pull the rug out from under us by enacting more stringent ordinances or guidelines that could effectively put us out of business. I want to re-invest in my business, my employees, and my community, but caution always exists when the threat of these municipalities exists. Passing HB 344 will create a more predictable and sustainable business climate, encouraging long-term investment in Missouri. I urge this committee to support HB344 and move it forward in the legislative process. Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to provide further information or answer any questions regarding how this bill impacts businesses like mine.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CARA HOOVER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-356-9698</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TOBACCO OUTLETS</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 2322</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL: <b>cara@heartlandpolicyadvisors.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 3:14 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			
<b>Support the bill.</b>			





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHARLES ANDY ARNOLD</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-971-1000</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>HUB, INC</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>P. O. BOX 161</b>			
CITY: <b>WRIGHT CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63390</b>
EMAIL: <b>caarnold@arnoldlobby.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 11:06 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**  
**Support the the uniform regulation of tobacco products in Missouri.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHHAYA PATEL</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-403-5279</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>LEMAY BP</b>		TITLE: <b>OWNER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3307 LEMAY FERRY ROAD</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63125</b>
EMAIL: <b>jiyaniti05@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:03 PM</b>

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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CINDY RANEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-747-0330</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>CHEAP SMOKES</b>		TITLE: <b>MANGER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>737 WEBER RD</b>			
CITY: <b>FARMINGTON</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63640</b>
EMAIL: <b>cindy_cheapsmokes@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 8:02 AM</b>

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**I am a business owner in Farmington, Mo. I employ 5 people. MO HB 344 is a massive bill for small businesses like mine and I hope you support."**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DANIEL HOAMBRECKER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-645-4769</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>THE STATION</b>		TITLE: <b>OWNER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>14523 NW 74TH ST</b>			
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64152</b>
EMAIL: <b>dhoambrecker@hpekc.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 6:19 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

To the Members of the Missouri Legislature, I am deeply concerned about the threat of local governments adopting their own laws regulating the sales of tobacco and vapor products. As the owner of four stores in Kansas City, I firmly believe that these issues are best handled at the state level. That's why I strongly urge you to support House Bill 344 and Senate Bill 231, which would create a uniform, statewide solution to tobacco and vapor regulations. Tobacco and vapor products are age-restricted items that are already regulated by the state. This is why it makes so much sense for Missouri to have a single, unified approach when it comes to these products. The state, and not individual cities or counties, should be making these rules. If every locality were to pass its own regulations, we could easily end up with a confusing mess of different rules and restrictions. Imagine a store owner who has different stores in different cities. This would make it extremely difficult for them to follow the different laws and potentially stay compliant. At the same time, it would also hurt adult customers who rely on consistent access to products in a regulated environment. By supporting statewide preemption, you will help ensure that all Missouri retailers are working under the same rules, avoiding the absolute chaos that would come from a patchwork of local ordinances across Missouri. This consistency is in the best interest of both the consumer and the retail sector. It really is critical for the state to maintain control over tobacco and vapor product regulations to avoid conflicting laws, protect legitimate businesses, and protect the state's revenue. I urge you to SUPPORT HB 344 and SB 231. Please help create a stable, predictable regulatory environment that benefits the state, the retail community, and most importantly, Missouri's consumers. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Daniel Hoambrecker Owner, The Station Stores 15399 NW Brink-Meyer Rd. KCMO 64152 816-645-4769



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DANNY TESFAZJI</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-933-0028</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>GAS MART</b>		TITLE: <b>OWNER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>6901 HAMPTON AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63109</b>
EMAIL: <b>dahlakball10@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 8:34 AM</b>

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**I am a business owner in Saint Louis City. I employ 5 people. MO HB 344 is a massive bill for small businesses like mine and I hope you support.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAVID SAMUEL OVERFELT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-230-6006</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI GROCERS ASSOCIATION; MISSOURI RETAILERS ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>618 E CAPITOL, PO 1336</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL: <b>dave@moretailers.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 11:58 AM</b>
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**The Missouri Retailers Association and the Missouri Grocers Association support statewide uniform regulations for product sales. Local ordinances that restrict products are costly and detrimental.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DHAVAL SHAH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-605-5348</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>SHREEJI OF EUREKA LLC</b>		TITLE: <b>OWNER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>301 WEST 5TH STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>EUREKA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63025</b>
EMAIL: <b>daneureka66@att.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 7:36 PM</b>

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I am a business owner in Eureka, mo. I employ 6 people. Mo HB344 is a massive bill for small businesses like mine and I hope you support.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>EAPEN THAMPY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-673-5351</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>THE HUB</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64111</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>HARRY PATEL</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-673-8022</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>COLUMBIA LIQUOR</b>		TITLE: <b>MEMBER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>203 N PROVIDENCE RD</b>			
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65203</b>
EMAIL: <b>columbialiquor@hotmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 11:03 AM</b>
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I am business owner in small town Columbia, Missouri and I employee 4 people, MO HB 344 is a massive bill for small businesses like mine and I hope you support it.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>HEATH CLARKSTON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-520-7240</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MAVERIK CONVENIENCE STORES</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>235 EAST HIGH STREET, SUITE 301</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 344</b>		DATE: <b>2/12/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JAKE SILVERMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-757-1135</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI VAPE AND ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>517 GOLDEN LEAF CT.</b>			
CITY: <b>LAKE SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63367</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 344</b>		DATE: <b>2/12/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KAREN KLUESNER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>636-239-3444</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>FAS-TRIP CONVENIENCE STORES</b>		TITLE: <b>OWNER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>603 ALBERTA LANE, SUITE 100</b>			
CITY: <b>WASHINGTON</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63090</b>
EMAIL: <b>karen@fas-trip.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 12:46 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

To the Members of the Missouri Legislature, I am writing to strongly urge you to support House Bill 344 and Senate Bill 231, which seek to ensure that laws regarding the sale of tobacco and nicotine products in Missouri remain consistent across all cities and counties. These bills are critically important to businesses like Fas-Trip Convenience Stores. We operate seven stores, including locations in Washington, New Haven, Union, and Sullivan. Allowing local governments to create their own laws regarding the sale of tobacco and nicotine products is an approach that will quickly become cumbersome for multi-location businesses such as ours. In our case, having to potentially navigate different tobacco laws in four separate cities would make it extremely difficult to maintain consistency in our operations. Local laws that impose restrictions like banning certain tobacco products would not only add operational complexity but could also devastate our business. When local jurisdictions impose laws that go beyond state law, it can drive our customers away. For example, if a local law bans a certain tobacco product, adult customers don't simply stop using these products. Instead, they drive to neighboring cities where the product is available, often purchasing other items like fuel, snacks, and beverages while they're there. This creates a situation where some businesses are unfairly advantaged, while others are hurt by inconsistent local regulations. As customers move from one location to another to make their purchases, local businesses lose sales, which inevitably leads to reduced staff hours, layoffs, or in the worst-case scenarios, store closures. A reduction in businesses directly impacts the well-being of the communities we serve, and the cumulative effect harms Missouri's economy as a whole. One of the major concerns is the risk of a patchwork of local regulations that could drive up business costs and make it harder for retailers to stay afloat. For example, I understand that Kansas City is considering implementing a flavored tobacco ban. If this restrictive legislation passes, I fear that other municipalities will follow suit, creating a domino effect of regulations that can spiral out of control and cripple the retail community. This is a scenario where localities start overregulating, making it harder for businesses to survive and grow. We look to our state legislators to ensure that government does not impede the success of businesses in Missouri. Rather than allowing local governments to impose inconsistent laws on the sale of tobacco products, we urge you to enact policies that create jobs and foster economic growth. Such local regulations undermine these goals and place unnecessary burdens on businesses. Preemption would ensure that is the state implementing policies on tobacco products that are consistent, fair, and reasonable. This approach will allow businesses to operate efficiently, manage costs, and continue contributing to the state's economy. I urge you to support House Bill 344 and Senate Bill 231 in order to prevent the patchwork of local tobacco laws from happening. We need clear, uniform regulations that will benefit businesses, consumers, and the economy as a whole. I hope you will take this opportunity to help support small businesses like ours and ensure that Missouri remains a state where businesses can

grow and succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Karen Kluesner, owner Fas-Trip Convenience Stores  
603 Alberta Lane, Suite 100 Washington, MO 63090 karen@fas-trip.com  
639-239-3444



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 344</b>		DATE: <b>2/12/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KEVIN BHAMANI</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>512-905-2356</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>KAY-BEE'S LLC</b>		TITLE: <b>OWNER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>6625 RAYTOWN ROAD</b>			
CITY: <b>RAYTOWN</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64133</b>
EMAIL: <b>kevinbhamani@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 12:52 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

Dear Members of the Missouri State Legislature, As the owner of two Kay-Bee's convenience stores in Raytown, I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 344 and Senate Bill 231, which seek to establish a uniform, statewide policy for the sale of tobacco and vapor products. These bills are crucial for my business and many others across Missouri, as they would prevent local tobacco ordinances that could severely harm small businesses like mine. While I believe in the principle of less government control, there comes a point when local governments begin passing a myriad of conflicting laws, which becomes overwhelming, inefficient, and ultimately damaging to small businesses. In 2021, cities like Kansas City and Columbia attempted to adopt ordinances that would have banned the sale of flavored tobacco products. Just last year, Kansas City once again introduced a similar ordinance, which was strongly opposed by the retail community. Although these laws have not passed, the threat remains real, and the precedent set by these proposals is alarming for business owners like me. Local control works well when it's focused on addressing specific community needs in a manageable way. However, when it comes to regulating something as widely available and purchased like tobacco, inconsistent local laws create a patchwork of regulations that are ineffective. For example, one city may ban flavored tobacco products, but this will only hurt the local businesses in that city. If an adult can't buy their preferred tobacco product in their own city, they'll simply drive to the next city where the laws are less restrictive. This creates a scenario where some retailers thrive while others suffer, creating winners and losers across the state. That's why I support HB 344 / SB 231. By establishing a uniform, statewide policy, these bills would prevent local ordinances from passing that could harm my business and others across the state. They would ensure a consistent and fair regulatory framework for tobacco and vapor sales, allowing small businesses to thrive, regardless of location. We need your help to ensure that local regulations don't spiral out of control and become harmful to small businesses and communities. Please SUPPORT HB 344 / SB 231 to provide the stability and predictability small business owners need to continue operating across Missouri. Thank you for your time and consideration, Kevin Bhamani Owner, Kay-Bee's Convenience Stores (Your Address) (Your Preferred Contact Information)



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MATT SMITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-988-2287</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3234 WEST TRUMAN BOULEVARD</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MONU SINGH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>347-335-2836</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>KC QUICK</b>		TITLE: <b>OWNER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>11805 E 23RD STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>INDEPENDENCE</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64050</b>
EMAIL: <b>kcquick3@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 1:24 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Dear Members of the Missouri Legislature, As a retailer in Missouri, I'm writing to ask for your support of HB 344 and SB 231. Everyone agrees we don't need more government, but that's exactly what we'll get if local governments are allowed to pass their own varying regulations on the sale of tobacco and vapor products. In fact, just last year, Kansas City introduced an ordinance to ban the sale of flavored tobacco. That threat is not over. Preemption at the state level is the best way to avoid unnecessary regulations and keep things simple for businesses across Missouri. By supporting these bills, you'll help ensure that laws on tobacco and vapor products remain consistent and manageable throughout the state, which is in the best interest of consumers, retailers like me, and the state's economy. I hope you'll consider the impact of local regulations on businesses and support these bills. Preemption will keep Missouri's tobacco laws as a matter of statewide concern, so they remain clear and uniform across the state. This will prevent an onslaught of new regulations that vary from locality to locality on the same products, which would only lead to confusion for retailers and hurt small businesses. Thank you for listening to your constituents. I hope you'll support this important step to maintain fairness and stability for businesses and consumers in Missouri. Sincerely, Monu Singh Owner, KC Quick 3 11805 E. 23rd St. Independence, MO





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 344</b>		DATE: <b>2/12/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>PARTH PATEL</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>901-297-7371</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>LIQUOR DOCTOR</b>		TITLE: <b>OWNER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>8360 AIRPORT ROAD</b>			
CITY: <b>BERKELEY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63301</b>
EMAIL: <b>ppatel723@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:36 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

I am a business owner in Berkeley MO. I employ 4 people. MO HB 344 is a massive bill for small businesses like mine and I hope you support.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RAMI M ALNIMRI</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-662-7407</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>BX TOBACCO AND BEER</b>		TITLE: <b>MEMBER</b>	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: <b>ST. CHARLES</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63304</b>
EMAIL: <b>bxmarket16@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 10:55 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I am a business owner in St. Charles, MO town. I employ 1 people. MO HB 344 is a massive bill for small businesses like mine and I hope you support.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RON LEONE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-864-5189</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MPCA-MISSOURI PETROLEUM AND CONVENIENCE ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>205 E. CAPITOL AVE. SUITE 200</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SAM LICKLIDER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-418-5069</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>CIGAR ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SAM SHAWAR</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>heshamshawar@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 9:49 AM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

**I am a business owner in Saint Louis County. I employ 4 employees. MO HB 344 is a massive bill for small businesses like mine and I hope you support!**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 344</b>		DATE: <b>2/12/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SAM WILES</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-680-5761</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>325 WASHINGTON STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>STEVEN CARROLL</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-761-5952</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>XCALIBER INTERNATIONAL</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>215 E. CAPITOL</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRIAN BERNSKOETTER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-636-2822</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>100 E. HIGH</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>COLLEEN TEPEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>colleentepen81@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 4:53 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I oppose this bill. It would preempt local tobacco sales ordinances. Local communities should have the ability to work to address tobacco use issues. This would stop that, including existing tobacco ordinances, like some communities' T-21 ordinances. Missouri already had high rates of COPD and cheap cigarettes. Why take away local initiatives to discourage tobacco use?



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>EMILY KALMER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-455-8657</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY CANCER ACTION NETWORK</b>		TITLE: <b>GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1001 CRAIG ROAD, SUITE 330</b>			
CITY: <b>CREVE COEUR</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JACOB SCOTT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>113 MADISON ST</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL: <b>jscott@msma.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 1:37 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			
<b>In opposition to the bill</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KATIE TOWNS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-874-2280</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>227 E. CHESTNUT EXPRESSWAY</b>			
CITY: <b>SPRINGFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65802</b>
EMAIL: <b>ktowns@springfieldmo.gov</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 4:15 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

To the Honorable Members of this Committee, The mission of the Springfield-Greene County Health Department is to protect and improve community health. To that end, the Health Department opposes House Bill 344, which would limit local authorities' ability to regulate tobacco and vapor products and be detrimental to tobacco control efforts. Research shows that tobacco preemption laws negatively impact public health by increasing the number of youth who smoke and the intensity of their addiction. Preemption raises the likelihood that youth smokers smoke daily by 18%. As of 2015, there were nearly 36,500 more youth who smoked daily in the U.S. as a result of state tobacco preemption laws. The 2024 Missouri Student Survey analyzed more than 3,500 responses from youth in Greene County between 6th and 12th grades, and found that 10.6% of students used tobacco or e-cigarettes in the past 30 days. This is decreased from the 2022 survey, where 11.7% of Greene County students reported having used tobacco or e-cigarettes in the 30 days prior. HB 344 would reverse the downward trend Greene County and Missouri are experiencing for students who report having used tobacco or e-cigarettes. Tobacco cessation policies adopted at the local level can be effective at discouraging youth from initiating tobacco use and encouraging adult tobacco users to quit. In 2019, the City of Springfield implemented an ordinance prohibiting tobacco and e-cigarette sales to anyone under 21 years of age to counteract youth tobacco usage and align with federal law. Tobacco preemption laws like HB 344 would remove the ability for our community to respond to its local public health needs. The Springfield-Greene County Health Department opposes HB 344 and all legislation relating to tobacco preemption. Sincerely, Katie Towns, Director, Springfield-Greene County Health Department



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KORTNIE HUDDLESTON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kortniehuddleston@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 8:49 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**HB 344 is another attempt at taking away local control, this time regarding tobacco, nicotine, and vapor products. Local governments should be able to enact stricter laws related to these products for the benefit of their community's health and safety. Vote no on HB 344.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 344</b>		DATE: <b>2/12/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LAURA BRUCE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>laura.sustad@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 4:04 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Local communities need local control over tobacco products because of their addictive nature and the tobacco industries' predatory practices to hook kids. The amount of tobacco industry influence in Missouri is embarrassing and we should be doing things to protect the health of our communities, not removing their power to regulate and implement what is best for their neighborhoods.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 344</b>		DATE: <b>2/12/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LAURA TURNER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-449-9145</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION IN MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR, ADVOCACY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>211 N. BROADWAY, STE. 2035</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63102</b>
EMAIL: <b>laura.turner@lung.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 11:15 AM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

The American Lung Association is very concerned about HB 344, which would undermine local tobacco control efforts to protect our youth from tobacco, alternative nicotine products, and vapor products. The American Lung Association in Missouri strongly urges the members of this committee to oppose this legislation. The Lung Association believes that local governments should be allowed to respond to public health issues in real time and in ways that work for their communities. Local governments are uniquely positioned to meet the needs of the people in their communities. They should be able to pass laws that are proven to promote good health, well-being, and equity that go above and beyond the statewide law. When states block communities from passing their own laws, it can hurt the health and well-being of our families, friends, and neighbors. Businesses are used to meeting different requirements under different local laws. This “patchwork” is the norm and does not create an undue burden for businesses. Local governments are closest to the residents of Missouri and often are better able to assess whether additional restrictions on tobacco sales are needed in the community to protect kids from tobacco. Approximately 27 local Tobacco 21 policies have already been enacted in Missouri to reduce youth tobacco use. Local control allows local law enforcement agencies to conduct compliance checks against sales of tobacco products to minors in their communities. The preemption in HB 344 would undermine local tobacco control efforts and give the tobacco industry free reign to prey upon our young people. The most important battle in the fight against youth tobacco and vaping use happens on the front lines in local communities. Without preemption, cities and counties can establish guidelines that restrict the sale of tobacco products near schools, community centers, baseball fields, parks and other areas where underage children frequent within their communities.

Local residents and local leaders know how to solve local problems—because they see them up close. When they work together to come up with a solution, the state government should help them to improve it—not strike it down. The American Lung Association strongly urges this committee to oppose HB 344 and support local control - allowing our local governments to work at the community level to curb this epidemic.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARY SZARMACH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>303-941-2806</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>SMOKER FRIENDLY</b>		TITLE: <b>SMOKER FRIENDLY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>6790 WINCHESTER CR</b>			
CITY: <b>BOULDER</b>		STATE: <b>CO</b>	ZIP: <b>80301</b>
EMAIL: <b>mszarmach@cigarettestore.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 2:01 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Dear Members of the Missouri House Commerce Committee, I am writing to you today in strong support of HB 344. My name is Mary Szarmach, and I serve as the Vice President of Government Relations for Smoker Friendly, a family-owned business since 1989. We proudly operate 34 retail sites in Missouri and employ 244 hard-working citizens from the Show Me State. When I say "enough is enough," I am referring to the aggressive tactics imposed by locally elected progressives on our business. Our company is based in Boulder, CO, and while we would love to continue expanding in our neighborhood, it is simply not possible due to the relentless attacks on the tobacco and nicotine category. In 2021, the city of Boulder implemented a vapor flavor ban, resulting in a 6% loss of our total business and a staggering 49% loss of our vapor business. Unfortunately, this was not surprising, as Glenwood Springs, CO, passed even more restrictive legislation in 2019, implementing a full flavor ban on all tobacco and nicotine products. This led to a 42% loss in overall business at that location, forcing us to reduce staff hours and lay off otherwise deserving employees. The only way to stop this type of behavior is to enact HB 344. Opponents may argue that this bill strips away local control. Let me be clear: I am not opposed to local government. In fact, I recognize that local government allows us to live our lives freely without fear of crime, poor infrastructure, or inadequate schools. However, I am opposed to rogue localities that believe they know better and, in the process, destroy local businesses. While I would oppose a flavor ban at the state level, the reality is that this conversation should occur at the state level. The state recoups excise funds, so it should be the state's decision whether to destroy that revenue source or keep it afloat. A statewide approach also ensures that retailers across the state are treated fairly and are not at the mercy of progressive towns. This is not a scare tactic; it is a real and present issue for Missouri. Kansas City has attempted and failed twice to pass a full tobacco flavor ban. If HB 344 is not enacted, Kansas City will eventually succeed, leaving hundreds of local business owners struggling to pay their rent, utilities, and, most importantly, feed their families. This legislative body has preempted minimum wage laws, firearms regulations, and more because you recognized the importance of these arguments. Many of you campaign on the message of supporting small businesses. We cannot wait any longer. Act now and vote in favor of HB 344 to stop Missouri localities from destroying small businesses. Thank you Mary Szarmach





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MAURA PATEL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: <b>AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>SR. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS LEAD</b>	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63141</b>
EMAIL: <b>maura.gray@heart.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 4:04 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

On behalf of the American Heart Association, I urge you to vote "no" on HB 344. There are ample amounts of data that show smoking leads to a greater risk of heart disease and stroke – this is why we advocate for strong regulations on the tobacco industry. In Missouri, most of our enforcement and oversight of tobacco sales comes from the local level – being tied back to their respective "T21 laws." The tobacco industry knows this, which is why they push for the language you see in this legislation. It essentially deregulates them. Do not support the industry and their tactics. Vote "no" and help to protect our kids and local communities' rights to combat Big Tobacco.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 344</b>		DATE: <b>2/12/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MAURA PATEL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: <b>AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>SR. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS LEAD</b>	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63141</b>
EMAIL: <b>maura.gray@heart.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 12:25 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

On behalf of the American Heart Association, I urge you to vote "no" on HB 344. There are ample amounts of data that show smoking leads to a greater risk of heart disease and stroke – this is why we advocate for strong regulations on the tobacco industry. In Missouri, most of our enforcement and oversight of tobacco sales comes from the local level – being tied back to their respective "T21 laws." The tobacco industry knows this, which is why they push for the language you see in this legislation. It essentially deregulates them. Do not support the industry and their tactics. Vote "no" and help to protect our kids and local communities' rights to combat Big Tobacco.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL DREYER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mdreyer93@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 8:48 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

HB 344 is another attempt at taking away local control, this time regarding tobacco, nicotine, and vapor products. Local governments should be able to enact stricter laws related to these products for the benefit of their community's health and safety. Vote no on HB 344.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHANNON COOPER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>660-890-1432</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>CITY OF KANSAS CITY; GREATER KC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>208 MADISON STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

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COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>STANLEY R. COWEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:00 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SUSAN GIBSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Onesuegibson@protonmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2025 10:19 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

**It is impossible for me to fathom this bill sponsor's crusade against good health for Missourians, including our youth. Please oppose the misguided legislation.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 344</b>		DATE: <b>2/12/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>WILL MARRS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-848-8561</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>817 SOUTH PICKWICK AVENUE</b>			
CITY: <b>SPRINGFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65804</b>
EMAIL: <b>willmarrs@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 3:51 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

The Missouri Public Health Association opposes this preemptive language that is written by the tobacco industry because it reduces the effectiveness of Tobacco 21 efforts in your community. This is counter to local control, guts enforcement at the local level, and will have the undesired effect of addicting a new generation to tobacco and nicotine products.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 344</b>		DATE: <b>2/12/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Commerce</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RICHARD SHEETS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-635-9134</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE</b>		TITLE: <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1727 SOUTHRIDGE DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			