



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ANGELA SCHULTE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-680-0255	
REPRESENTING: CASEY's GENERAL STORES		TITLE: PRINCIPAL	
ADDRESS: 217 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: aschulte@hbstrategies.us	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/14/2026 11:17 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/14/2026 11:40 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in Support of this Bill and its intention to ensure that no underage sale to minors is being conducted and to ensure that the ingredients are not harmful to consumers of legal age to purchase these products.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLES ANDY ARNOLD		PHONE NUMBER: 314-971-1000	
REPRESENTING: HUB, INC		TITLE: LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: POB 161			
CITY: WRIGHT CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63390
EMAIL: caarnold@arnoldlobby.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 11:09 PM	

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

We represent the largest Missouri owned tobacco wholesaler in the state. By making sure tobacco regulation is standardized the company our firm represents can comply with all rules and regulations regarding tax stamps.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026
COMMITTEE: Commerce		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: DAN SHAUL		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: MO GROCERS ASSOCIATION/MISSOURI RETAILERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 415 N KEN AVE		
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63052
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/14/2026 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026
COMMITTEE: Commerce		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: HEATH CLARKSTON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-520-7240
REPRESENTING: MAVERIK CONVENIENCE STORES		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 235 EAST HIGH STREET, SUITE 301		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: heath@cnmissouri.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 5:18 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JAKE SILVERMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-757-1135	
REPRESENTING: MO VAPE & ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 14470 TEALCREST DR			
CITY: CHESTERFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63017
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/14/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN BARDGETT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-409-2855	
REPRESENTING: MO PETROLEUM MARKETERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 205 E CAPITOL AVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/14/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JOSEPH GLYNN LOOPE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PREMIUM CIGAR ASSOCIATION		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF STATE ADVOCACY	
ADDRESS: 513 CAPITOL COURT, SUITE 300			
CITY: WASHINTON		STATE: DC	ZIP: 20002
EMAIL: Glynn@PremiumCigars.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/14/2026 2:00 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

On behalf of the Premium Cigar Association and our network of seventeen member shops in the State of Missouri, we write in support of HB 2085.

HB 2085 would prevent local governments from imposing new, conflicting regulations on legal tobacco products, which could include restrictions on product displays, marketing, sales, distribution, and even additional local smoking restrictions. Left unchecked, these local actions could create serious barriers for Missouri small businesses and manufacturers who already comply with extensive state and federal regulations.

Missouri does not need a confusing patchwork of contradictory local laws, ordinances and regulations that burden small businesses, limit consumer choice, and create uncertainty for patrons and enforcement alike. A clear, consistent statewide framework ensures fairness, predictability, and economic stability for Missouri businesses, as well as their patrons.

Premium handmade cigars, pipe tobacco and their accessories are not to be confused or equated with other product categories. They do not have the public health issues associated with other sectors, with clear and objective studies noting the statistically insignificant association with inhalation, addiction, mortality and youth access.

We would welcome the opportunity to provide the committee with any supporting studies you may need, or answer any questions. With thanks for your consideration of this testimony, I am

J. Glynn Loope, Director of State Advocacy
Premium Cigar Association
513 Capitol Court, NE
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002
(540) 968-0402
Glynn@PremiumCigars.org



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KAREN KLUESNER		PHONE NUMBER: 636-239-3444	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FAS-TRIP CONVENIENCE STORES		TITLE: OWNER	
ADDRESS: 603 ALBERTA LANE, SUITE 100			
CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63090
EMAIL: leah@fas-trip.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 10:55 AM

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

To the Members of the Missouri Legislature,
 I am writing to strongly urge you to support House Bill 2085, which would ensure that laws regarding the sale of tobacco and nicotine products in Missouri remain consistent across all cities and counties. This legislation is critically important to businesses like Fas-Trip Convenience Stores. We operate seven stores, including locations in Washington, New Haven, Union, and Sullivan, and uniform statewide standards are essential to our ability to operate efficiently. Allowing local governments to create their own laws regarding the sale of tobacco and nicotine products quickly becomes unmanageable for multi-location retailers such as ours. Having to navigate different sets of rules in each of the four cities where we operate would make it extremely difficult to maintain consistent operations. Local restrictions like banning certain tobacco products would not only increase operational complexity but could also significantly impact our business performance and long-term viability. When individual jurisdictions impose regulations that go beyond state law, it drives customers away. Adult customers don't simply stop purchasing these products. Instead, they travel to neighboring communities where the products remain available. While doing so, they often purchase fuel, snacks, beverages, and other items – resulting in lost sales for businesses in the more restrictive areas. This creates an uneven playing field where certain businesses are disadvantaged solely due to their location. These losses inevitably lead to reduced staff hours, which hurts our employees and their families. A patchwork of local regulations will raise costs and make it harder for retailers to stay in business. For example, Kansas City has already considered implementing a flavored tobacco ban twice in the last five years. Once one locality adopts a restrictive tobacco regulation, other municipalities will likely follow suit, creating a domino effect of local regulations that could spiral out of control and severely damage the retail sector. This type of regulatory overreach threatens the ability of businesses, especially smaller retailers, to remain stable and competitive. We look to our state legislators to ensure that government policy supports, rather than hinders, the success of businesses in Missouri. Instead of allowing local governments to enact inconsistent regulations on tobacco products, we urge you to put in place policies that encourage economic growth and job creation. Local tobacco restrictions work against these and place unnecessary burdens on businesses. Statewide preemption ensures that tobacco policies remain consistent, fair, and reasonable across all communities. Such uniformity enables businesses to operate efficiently, manage costs responsibly, and continue contributing to Missouri's economy. For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to SUPPORT House Bill 2085 and prevent a patchwork of local tobacco laws from being adopted in our state. Clear, uniform regulations handled at the state

level will benefit retailers, consumers, and Missouri's economy as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your support in protecting local businesses and ensuring that Missouri remains a state where businesses can grow and succeed.

Sincerely,

Karen Kluesner, Owner

Fas-Trip Convenience Stores

603 Alberta Lane, Suite 100

Washington, Missouri 63090

636-239-3444



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KENNY DOBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: WARE BRANDS		TITLE: VICE PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 205 E MORTON STE 10			
CITY: JACKSONVILLE		STATE: IL	ZIP: 62650
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/14/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MATTHEW SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-2246	
REPRESENTING: ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI		TITLE: VP OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 3234 W TRUMAN BLVD			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: msmith@aimo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/14/2026 9:36 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We support this bill because of the protection it provides businesses across Missouri and provides uniformity for one law as opposed to a patchwork of multiple regulations across the state.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RON BERRY		PHONE NUMBER: 660-537-2239	
REPRESENTING: WARRENTON OIL COMPANY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 722			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/14/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RONALD LEONE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-864-5189	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI PETROLEUM & CONVENIENCE ASSN. (MPCA)		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 205 E CAPITOL AVENUE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: ron@mpca.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:38 PM	

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

My name is Ronald J. Leone, and I am the Executive Director of the Missouri Petroleum & Convenience Association (MPCA).

MPCA is a statewide trade association established in 1937 and we represent many of your constituents who own, operate, or supply gas stations, convenience stores, and truck stops.

I am submitting this written testimony in support of HB 2085 in case I am unable to testify in person.

I. The following are 2 recent examples of local tobacco ordinances that go far beyond the proper scope, function, and role of local government.

Kansas City. Late in 2024, Kansas City proposed an ordinance that would ban the sale of flavored tobacco and cigars in Kansas City.

It took a massive amount of time and effort to stop this local flavor ban which could be reintroduced at any time.

St. Louis County. In 2019, St. Louis County passed an ordinance wherein tobacco products couldn't be sold within 1000 feet of school property.

All existing tobacco licenses were grandfathered in, but they were not transferable and St. Louis County would not grant any new tobacco licenses. This included convenience stores which were operating before the school property was built within 1000 feet of the convenience store.

The result was that if you sold an operating and grandfathered convenience store located within 1000 feet of school property, St. Louis County would not grant the buyer, the potential new owner, a license to sell tobacco products.

St. Louis County's tobacco license prohibition unfairly and dramatically reduced the value of an impacted convenience store and was, among other things, an abuse of the County's zoning power and an unlawful governmental taking of private property.

It took several years to convince the County Council to modify the ordinance so that the buyer of the property was in fact eligible for a tobacco license.

II. Here are a few of the many reasons why most local tobacco ordinances are bad for businesses and adult consumers and why tobacco preemption at the state level is desperately needed.

?Local tobacco ordinances limit the choices of adult consumers.

?Local tobacco ordinances do not decrease demand or decrease consumption. They simply push adult consumers to buy tobacco products in border cities, border states, and on the internet.

?Tobacco products account for a significant portion of inside store sales. Local tobacco ordinances put impacted retailers at a competitive disadvantage with other Missouri retailers which means layoffs, downsizing, abandoned properties, and food deserts.

?Local tobacco ordinances devastate brick-and-mortar local retailers. Not only do the retailers lose the tobacco sales, but they also see a massive reduction in accompanying sales of gasoline, food, and general merchandise.

?Local tobacco ordinances which push sales to our border states will deprive Missouri of critical excise tax revenue used to fund state programs.

?Local tobacco ordinances, especially tobacco bans, could encourage a black market which has no qualms about selling tobacco products to minors.

?Tobacco is not a local issue. Regulating or banning tobacco products is best left up to Jefferson City or Congress so that all Missouri retailers are playing by the same uniform, consistent, and predictable rules.

In sum, local tobacco ordinances reduce much needed local and state tax revenue, devastate brick-and-mortar local retailers, and push all the tobacco sales to border cities, border states, and the internet which are not subject to these new and draconian restrictions.

Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SCOTT PEARCE		PHONE NUMBER: 202-223-8204	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CIGAR ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 525 9TH ST NW, SUITE 375			
CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: DC	ZIP: 20004
EMAIL: Spearce@cigarsusa.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/14/2026 3:04 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

January 14, 2026

House Commerce Committee
 Testimony in Support of HB 2085

Dear Chair Casteel, Ranking Member Kimble, and Members of the Commerce Committee

The Cigar Association of America (CAA) submits the following testimony in support of House Bill 2085, a bill that would preempt localities from superseding the state’s policies on tobacco products. CAA is the leading national trade organization representing the interests of manufacturers, importers, distributors, and major suppliers in the cigar and pipe tobacco industry. The CAA is a key stakeholder in this discussion, as the proposed change in law has the potential to significantly impact its members and their ability to conduct business in the State of Missouri.

HB 2085 is about facilitating compliance and does not pose risks to public health. Statewide tobacco use is at the lowest level in decades and trends indicate continued decline. In addition, Federal law already prohibits the sale of tobacco to individuals under 21 years of age. This supersedes any local ordinances to the contrary.

HB 2085 ensures that enforcement and tax collection efforts are not frustrated by a patchwork of local ordinances. When regulation is fragmented, it pushes consumers out of certain jurisdictions and discourages businesses from broader investment in the State. This would harm local economies, make budgeting less predictable, and set the stage for State program deficits.

HB 2085 supports long-standing, tax-paying, and law-abiding businesses operating in the state of Missouri. Preemption encourages investment based on consistent statewide regulations – investment which support the State’s reliance on revenue generated from these businesses. Missouri, therefore, has a responsibility to ensure that tobacco regulation is uniform and fair across the State.

CAA strongly supports HB 2085 as preemption ensures stability and fairness for all cigar-related businesses in Missouri. A consistent statewide regulatory framework is essential for sustaining investment, job stability, promoting economic growth, and maintaining predictable revenue for the State. Missouri should not allow localities to usurp the State’s interests in this area.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Scott Pearce
President
Cigar Association of America**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026
COMMITTEE: Commerce		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: TODD BADGLEY		PHONE NUMBER: 618-233-6754
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FKG OIL COMPANY DBA MOTO CONVENIENCE STORES		TITLE: PRESIDENT
ADDRESS: 721 WEST MAIN		
CITY: BELLEVILLE	STATE: IL	ZIP: 62222
EMAIL: todd.badgley@fkgoil.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 10:48 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

FKG Oil Company (dba MotoMart Convenience Stores)

**Todd Badgley
 721 W. Main Street
 Belleville, IL 62220
 Missouri House of Representatives
 201 W. Capitol Ave
 Jefferson City, MO 65101
 January 12, 2026**

Dear Honorable Members of the Missouri House of Representatives,
 I am writing to ask for your support of HB 2085 (Keathley). My name is Todd Badgley, and I serve as the President of MotoMart Convenience Stores. This year marks our 70st anniversary, and we operate 84 locations across six states, including 17 stores in eastern Missouri.

As a business owner, I have seen firsthand how state policies shape the success of businesses. Some states foster growth and opportunity, while others impose burdensome regulations that hold businesses back. That is why I strongly support HB 2085 – legislation that promotes economic growth, protects small businesses, and ensures consistency and a level playing field across Missouri. HB 2085 is exactly the kind of bill Missouri needs. It is time for the state to take a stand against excessive local regulations that restrict the sale and marketing of tobacco and nicotine products. Missouri’s competitive excise tax rates, the lowest in the nation, have helped the state thrive. Operating stores along the Illinois border, we see the benefits daily: customers cross state lines to purchase products and save nearly \$3.00 per pack.

Failing to pass HB 2085 would put this advantage—and Missouri businesses—at risk. We all agree on the importance of preventing youth access to tobacco and nicotine products. But local proposals, like those in Kansas City and Columbia, go too far. Kansas City’s latest attempt to ban menthol cigarettes was framed as a measure to protect youth, yet the CDC’s own data shows that underage smoking rates have dropped to an all-time low of 1.4%. These local proposals are not about protecting youth—they are prohibition in disguise.

The economic consequences are significant. According to the National Association of Convenience Stores, cigarettes account for 19.4% of all in-store sales, and combined with other tobacco products, that figure rises to 34%. A ban on flavored tobacco products threatens nearly half of that revenue. Worse, these restrictions won't achieve their intended goals. Instead of keeping sales in Missouri, they will push sales to Illinois—just as Illinois’ high tax policies drive them here. This kind of regulatory patchwork frustrates consumers, creates security risks for employees, and hurts Missouri businesses. By passing HB 2085, the Missouri House will stop these harmful local proposals, protect small

businesses like mine, and keep Missouri competitive for years to come.

On behalf of MotoMart and our 300+ employees, I urge you to vote YES on HB 2085.

Thank you for your service to the state of Missouri. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Todd Badgley

President, MotoMart Convenience Stores



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTY INSKIP		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/14/2026 8:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Bills like this are straight out of Big Tobacco's playbook. Similar bills in other states have been devastating to local communities and entire states. The ONLY ones who benefit from a bill like HB 2085 are the tobacco industry, which is the only industry with products that are guaranteed and do kill consumers when used as intended. Missouri is already part of Tobacco Nation, having tobacco use rates more in line with third world countries than the rest of the U.S. If you support this bill, it will only worsen the already exploding, ever increasing tobacco epidemic among our children in Missouri. Children, like my cousin, have told me they want to quit vaping but feel trapped in their addiction. This bill would only bind the hands and mouths of local communities trying to effectively address youth tobacco use to save their children from a life filled with misery, pain, disease, and death from tobacco addiction caused by the tobacco industry. If you vote yes on HB 2085, it will be crystal clear to your constituents who you are actually beholden to - not us but the tobacco industry. I implore you please vote NO on HB 2085.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026
COMMITTEE: Commerce		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: EDWIN T KRAEMER, MD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 6:17 PM

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

My name is Edwin Kraemer, MD:

- Family Physician from Lee’s Summit
- Former Co-chair, Lee’s Summit Health Education Advisory Board and current member of the Lee’s Summit Wellness Commission.

My city of Lee’s Summit has been consistently active in protecting its citizens from the health effects of secondhand smoke, as well as helping prevent our young people from starting to smoke or vape in the first place.

In 2016, the City of Lee’s Summit passed a “Tobacco 21” ordinance raising the minimum age to purchase tobacco products, alternative nicotine products or vapor products to 21. There were many reasons for doing this. Allow me to quote one reason directly from that Lee’s Summit ordinance: “The City of Lee’s Summit recognizes that the use of tobacco products has devastating health consequences and that young people are particularly susceptible to the addictive properties of tobacco products and are particularly likely to become lifelong users.”

Prior to and since 2016, many other communities in KC Metro and around the state also have passed similar “Tobacco 21” ordinances.

According to the proposed HB2085 bill summary, “The bill does not prohibit counties, municipalities, or other political subdivisions from enforcing ordinances or regulations that set the age to sell or purchase tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, and vapor products to individuals under 21 years of age.”

However, this bill HB2085 does remove other options for past or future local ordinance regulation of tobacco purchases. This is a direct threat to local efforts to address underage tobacco use and vaping within our own communities...and the devastating health consequences of such use.

Please vote “NO” on HB2085.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026
COMMITTEE: Commerce		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: EMILY KALMER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-455-8657
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY CANCER ACTION NETWORK		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 1001 CRAIG RD STE 350		
CITY: CREVE COEUR		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63146
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/14/2026 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MAURA PATEL		PHONE NUMBER: 314-692-5635	
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION		TITLE: SR. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS LEAD	
ADDRESS: 12400 OLIVE BLVD			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL: maura.gray@heart.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 8:53 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 7:52 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I respectfully oppose HB 2085.

This bill removes the authority of local governments to regulate tobacco, vapor, and alternative nicotine products beyond age restrictions, even when those regulations are enacted to address demonstrated public health concerns within their own communities. Missouri’s cities and counties are not interchangeable, and a one-size-fits-all state mandate ignores real differences in population density, youth exposure, and local public health data.

HB 2085 is not a public safety bill. It is a preemption bill. It overrides locally enacted ordinances related to product bans, licensing, placement, and ingredient restrictions — tools that municipalities rely on to respond to rising youth vaping rates and evolving nicotine products. Stripping these tools does not reduce harm; it delays response and shifts control away from the communities most directly affected. Local governments are closer to the consequences of these policies than the state legislature. They bear the costs of enforcement, health impacts, and community outcomes. If a city or county determines that stronger regulations are necessary to protect residents, especially minors, the state should not prohibit that action.

Missouri already faces significant public health challenges related to nicotine addiction. This bill prioritizes regulatory uniformity over local accountability and public health responsiveness. For these reasons, I urge the committee to reject HB 2085.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STANLEY COWAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:48 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Much attention, and rightly so, has been given to the fentanyl crisis in our nation. Indeed, the goal to reduce the number of deaths from fentanyl overdoses was one of two primary factors cited in President Trump's rationale to impose tariffs on Mexico and Canada.

However, for decades there has been another drug that has exacted a much greater toll of premature deaths on Americans. Where fentanyl has claimed almost 74,000 American lives in 2022 , tobacco has claimed over 490,000 American lives. In other words, for every fentanyl death, there were 6.6 deaths from tobacco.

For Missouri the contrast is even greater, with 1,404 deaths from synthetic opioids overdose , compared to 11,000 deaths from tobacco-caused conditions. That is, for every fentanyl death, tobacco claimed the lives of 7.8 Missourians.

This is not to minimize the devastating impact of fentanyl, but to emphasize the impact of tobacco killing thousands of Missourians every year has been ignored far too long.

Before I retired from the University of Missouri – Columbia, School of Medicine, I tracked data for all 50 states for more than a decade and found states with strong tobacco control policies not only had lower rates of adult and youth tobacco/vapor/nicotine consumption, but also lower rates for incidence and deaths from lung cancer, heart disease, stroke, and emphysema – the top four leading causes of deaths in Missouri.

Missouri, which does not have even one strong state level tobacco control policy, continually had significantly higher rates for adult and youth consumption, and for disease and deaths than the national average. Additionally, this places an onerous burden on Missouri taxpayers of \$692 million per year for Medicaid costs to treat tobacco-related conditions (over \$112 per Missourian per year).⁴ Passing strong tobacco control legislation and rejecting industry-promoted preemptive legislation is not only good public health, but is also better stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Youth tobacco/vapor use is a serious problem in Missouri –

- 1) U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) data for tobacco retailer compliance checks show Missouri retailers have a violation rate of 16.3% selling to youth vs. national average of 11.2%.
- 2) Youth Risk Behavior Survey data show youth use of any tobacco or vapor product within the past 30 days to be 21.3% for Missouri vs. national average of 18.7%.
- 3) In the first round of citations issued by FDA against retailers after they had been duly warned to stop the sale of illegal, youth-appealing vapor products - Missouri retailers accounted for nearly 29% of those cited - even though Missouri comprises less than 2% of the U.S. population.

How can Missouri deaths be prevented? What can be done?

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce was an early promoter of local Tobacco21 ordinances. When I asked why a business-oriented association with over 1,000 member businesses would have this interest, I was informed they want each year's graduating classes entering the workforce to be as

healthy as can be – because a healthier workforce is a more productive workforce. They cited a study that determined a smoker costs an employer over \$5,800 per year more than a non-smoker (increased absenteeism, smoke breaks, excess health care costs with more frequent and longer hospitalizations, etc.) They said strong tobacco control policies make economic sense for businesses.

Legislators that truly want to see this tobacco/vaping epidemic diminish among our young people should support, not preempt, local governmental efforts to protect their communities' young people from accessing these unhealthy and highly addictive products.

States that have realized lowered youth tobacco/vape use rates and higher retailer compliance rates accomplished this through a growth in local tobacco control ordinances which culminated in strong statewide laws.

The industry knows strong public health laws reduce tobacco consumption and thus, their profits. This was highlighted in a landmark interview when longtime Tobacco Institute lobbyist Victor Crawford, after a diagnosis of terminal lung cancer, unburdened his conscience in an interview for the Journal of the American Medical Association in 1995.

"We could never win at the local level.... So the Tobacco Institute and tobacco companies' first priority has always been to preempt the field, preferably to put it all on the federal level, but if they can't do that, at least on the state level."

Previous hearings for similar industry-promoted preemption bills received opposition testimonies from spokespersons for American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, American Heart Association, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the Missouri State Medical Association, the Missouri Nurses Association, and the Missouri Academy of Family Physicians. Please listen to these parties that have years of credible expertise in public health and have the interests of our young people at heart.

Most testifying in favor of preemption are mainly concerned in making hefty profits from selling extremely addictive products with full knowledge it will sicken and kill consumers. They vilify local tobacco control ordinances as being harmful to businesses; and incredibly, claim tobacco/ vapor product sales are vital to generating non-tobacco sales in their stores. On the contrary, as stated by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, stronger tobacco control policies makes better business sense by developing a healthier more productive workforce with fewer days of sick leave; fewer claims on health insurance; fewer hospitalizations; etc.

Please support bills aimed to prevent addiction, lessen disease, save lives, and save taxpayer dollars. Turn away bills aimed to protect profits for those selling toxic products which reduce quality of life and length of life (smokers die at least 10 years earlier than non-smokers).

Please don't deny local communities seeking policies proven to protect young people in their community from addiction to these toxic and deadly products. Please reject the industry-promoted HB2085.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 8:12 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Tobacco use has devastating health consequences, and young people are particularly susceptible to the addictive properties of tobacco products and therefore likely to become lifelong users.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ZAHRA JANOOWALLA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PARENTS AGAINST VAPING (PAVE)		TITLE: ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY AND VOLUNTEERS	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: SALEM		STATE: MA	ZIP: 01970
EMAIL: zahra@parentsagainstvaping.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 2:10 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Parents Against Vaping (PAVe) is a grassroots nonprofit made up of parents who are living this crisis every day. We advocate for the health and wellbeing of children nationally and here in Missouri because many of us have watched nicotine addiction take hold of our own kids or the children of people we love. On behalf of the thousands of Missouri families we represent, we strongly oppose House Bill 2085. This bill would limit local communities' ability to regulate the sale of tobacco, vapor, and alternative nicotine products, putting more children, and more families, at risk.

Everyday, we hear from parents who feel helpless and terrified as they watch their children struggle with nicotine addiction. Parents tell us about their kids who were once thriving but are now anxious, irritable, and unable to focus in school. Families describe arguments, broken trust, and sleepless nights spent worrying about what long-term damage nicotine is doing to their child's brain and body. For many families, vaping is not a phase; it is a daily battle that has real emotional, financial, and health consequences.

HB 2085 would take away one of the most important tools parents and communities have to protect children: local action. When state law ties the hands of local leaders, parents lose advocates who understand their communities and are willing to act. A one-size-fits-all approach ignores the reality that youth vaping looks different in different towns and counties, and it silences communities that are trying to respond to what parents are seeing on the ground.

Our children are being targeted by an industry that designs products with sweet flavors, colorful packaging, and easy concealment. Research confirms what parents already know: nicotine exposure during adolescence harms brain development and increases the risk of lifelong addiction. Families are left dealing with learning challenges, anxiety, impulsivity, behavioral changes, and increased risk of future substance use, along with serious respiratory and cardiovascular concerns.

We urge you to think about the parents sitting at kitchen tables across Missouri, wondering how to help their child quit, how to repair relationships strained by addiction, and how to keep their younger children from being next. Strong local tobacco and nicotine regulations have helped parents protect their kids and push back against the predatory practices of the tobacco industry. HB 2085 would roll back that progress and leave families with fewer protections when they need them most.

Parents Against Vaping respectfully urges you to oppose HB 2085 and preserve the ability of local

communities to protect children from the harmful effects of vaping and tobacco use. Missouri parents are counting on you to stand with families, not with an industry that profits from addiction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER BEAN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-227-2096	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MOST POLICY INITIATIVE		TITLE: MOST POLICY FELLOW - HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH	
ADDRESS: 238 E HIGH ST., 3RD FLOOR			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: jennifer@mostpolicyinitiative.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 9:13 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello Chairman Casteel and members of the committee. My name is Dr. Jennifer Bean, and I am the Health and Mental Health Legislative Policy Fellow with MOST Policy Initiative. We provide non-partisan research services to the Missouri state legislature at the request of legislators. Today, I am here to testify for informational purposes about House Bill 2085 regarding the regulation of vapor products.

Vaping devices, or vapes, use a battery to heat a liquid to a high temperature creating a mist of particles inhaled into the lungs. These liquids typically contain propylene glycol and vegetable glycerin. While these are safe to eat, research indicates that inhaling them can stress the heart and blood vessels. Furthermore, as the liquid heats on a metal coil, tiny pieces of that metal can flake off and enter the mist. Inhaling these metals is linked to lung irritation and damage.

Most vapes contain nicotine. In adolescents and young adults, whose brains continue to develop until about 25, nicotine can affect the areas of the brain that control learning, memory, and attention span. To mask the taste of nicotine, vape manufacturers may add fruit or candy flavorings. These flavor chemicals are approved for use in food but inhaling them is linked to damage in the small airways of the lungs. Research shows these flavors increase the appeal of vapes to young people. Studies find that 81% of youth who have ever used a tobacco product started with a flavored one.

If a young person begins vaping or smoking, they are at an increased risk of developing a long-term nicotine addiction. National data shows that nearly 90% of youth e-cigarette users use flavored products, and many show signs of increasing addiction, such as daily use or unsuccessful quit attempts. Additionally, people under 25 who use nicotine are twice as likely to become cigarette smokers and are at 3 and a half to 4 times more likely to use marijuana than non-vaping peers.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (the FDA) regulates all tobacco products, including vapes and their components. In January 2020, the FDA prioritized enforcement against unauthorized flavored, cartridge-based vapes, as data showed these were the most common products used by youth. Federal law also set the minimum purchase age for all tobacco products at 21 in 2019.

While the federal government sets manufacturing standards, Missouri and its cities can set stricter rules on use and sales. Missouri law bans vaping inside public schools and on school buses. Missouri also requires businesses to have a permit to sell vapes and requires child-resistant caps on nicotine containers. While 35 other states place an additional tax on vape sales and 7 states have banned flavored vapes entirely, Missouri has not enacted these measures statewide. Additionally, 18 Missouri municipalities have passed local ordinances that prohibit vaping in the same public spaces where smoking is banned.

Thank you for listening and I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2085		DATE: 1/14/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ZACHARY MOSER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-729-3106	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DENT COUNTY HEALTH CENTER		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1010 EAST SCENIC RIVERS BOULEVARD			
CITY: SALEM		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65560
EMAIL: zmoser@dentcohealth.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 9:25 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit informational testimony regarding HB 2085. This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Dent County Health Center (DCHC). DCHC does not offer testimony in support of or in opposition to the bill.

Many of the tobacco- and nicotine-related regulations implicated by HB 2085 are adopted and enforced by municipalities and counties through their local governing bodies, not by health departments acting independently. These local policies are typically exercises of long-standing local police powers intended to address community-specific public health conditions.

We recognize that legislative preemption is often pursued for legitimate reasons, including regulatory uniformity, clarity for businesses operating across jurisdictions, and avoidance of fragmented compliance standards. These considerations are important, particularly in areas involving commerce and retail regulation.

From a public health perspective, tobacco and nicotine use remain among the leading preventable causes of disease and premature death, and a significant driver of long-term health care costs. A substantial portion of tobacco-related morbidity in Missouri is borne by publicly funded systems, including Medicaid. Local prevention and control efforts—particularly those aimed at youth initiation and early cessation—are widely recognized as among the highest-return public health interventions, often yielding downstream savings that accrue to state and federal health programs rather than to local governments themselves.

Because health risks, retail environments, and population characteristics vary substantially across Missouri, municipalities and counties have historically relied on flexibility to implement narrowly tailored, evidence-based approaches that reflect local conditions and enforcement capacity. Broad preemption may reduce the ability of local governments to pursue cost-effective prevention strategies that complement state law and contribute to longer-term reductions in publicly funded health care spending.

DCHC offers this testimony solely to provide context on how HB 2085 may affect municipal and county flexibility in addressing tobacco-related public health issues, and to support informed consideration of the balance between statewide uniformity and local control.

**Respectfully submitted,
Dent County Health Center
Salem, Missouri**