

Dear Commissioner,

As your constituent in Cook County, I urge you to oppose the proposed amendment to tax additional tobacco products. This tax proposal will not produce the additional tax revenues the county anticipates, and will prove harmful to local businesses and the economy. Traditional Tobacconists are NOT Big Tobacco, but rather small, typically family-owned, businesses that cannot survive this tax increase. The proposed floor tax would cripple them, forcing many out of business, leaving even more residents of Cook County out of work.

Cook County Tobacconists face their largest competition from online retailers in States and Counties with smaller tobacco tax burdens. The higher retail prices Cook County Tobacconists will be forced to charge will drive consumers to other outlets, effectively diminishing any revenue stream the County expects to receive from these higher taxes.

As a consumer of Premium Tobacco Products, I will be left with no option, but to simply purchase my favorite cigars and pipe tobacco through mail-order or internet retail operations that do not collect ANY state or local tobacco or sales taxes.

Again, I urge you to oppose any new tobacco taxes in Cook County.

Sincerely,