



Testimony Opposing HB 1596
Submitted by Tim Harris
On Behalf of Core-Mark
Date: Monday, January 12th, 2026

To the Members of the New Hampshire Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Tim Harris, and with over 135 years of experience serving 50,000 retail locations across the country and a firsthand understanding of how taxation impacts our supply chain, I am writing to you on behalf of Core-Mark **to oppose House Bill 1596**, which proposes raising the state's cigarette tax by an astounding 57%.

Sharp tax increases incentivize illicit cigarette smuggling and sales and punishes legitimate and responsible distributors and convenience stores in New Hampshire. Higher taxes foster the growth of illicit markets where cross-border and out-of-state purchases occur unchecked, and underage compliance is often ignored. These activities deprive the state of much needed revenue and create an uneven playing field for law abiding New Hampshire businesses who do play by the rules.

The bill projects to collect an additional estimated \$83.9 million but fails to acknowledge that this relies on a volatile revenue source. The Tax Foundation studies state revenues from cigarette tax hikes and shows in the long run they don't deliver on their intentions. As a wholesaler, we see these numbers fall since we're the entities that remit taxes back to the state. These warnings aren't exaggerations – they're a reality.

New Hampshire can and should avoid such a reality and VOTE NO on [House Bill 1596](#).

Sincerely,

Tim Harris
Core-Mark