

**Testimony Opposing HB 1596**

**Submitted by Kyle Feldman**

**On Behalf of National Convenience Distributors**

**Date: Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

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

My name is Kyle Feldman, and I am writing on behalf of the National Convenience Distributors, a leading supplier of grocery and tobacco products to more than 18,000 retail stores across the Northeast and East Coast. Today I am **opposing House Bill 1596**, which proposes raising the tobacco tax from \$1.78 to \$2.80 per pack.

In many of the surrounding states where large tax hikes have been implemented, wholesale companies like mine have seen major shrinking in order volumes and increasing border only buying patterns due to consumers traveling out of state to purchase products.

New Hampshire currently has the lowest cigarette tax rate in the Northeast. In contrast, neighboring Maine raised its tax to \$3.50 per pack; Massachusetts, another bordering state, slams consumers with a \$3.51 tax and has implemented a complete flavor ban on all tobacco and nicotine products. This competitive advantage for New Hampshire attracts cross-border shoppers and strengthens our local economy. Increasing the tax by 57% as this bill intends completely erodes that advantage, discouraging out-of-state customers and retailers across the state.

Our neighboring friends' affinity for high taxes gave New Hampshire its significant economic edge. Why follow their lead on horrific public policy that just won't work?

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to reject House Bill 1596.

Thank you for your consideration and time on this matter.

Sincerely,



Kyle Feldman

The National Convenience Distributors

[kfeldman@thencd.com](mailto:kfeldman@thencd.com)



allenbrothers

PHILADELPHIA

120 W. Erie Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19140  
800.207.2553



ROCKVILLE

15710 Crabbs Branch Way  
Rockville, MD 20855  
301.212.9100



TAMPA

10889 Crossroads Commerce Blvd  
Tampa, FL 33610  
813.621.8880



FARMINGDALE

21 Banfi Plaza N  
Farmingdale, NY 11735  
800.325.2512



CHICOPEE

705 Meadow Street  
Chicopee, MA 01013  
800.447.6537