

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Chairman Smith and Committee Members.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

My name is Jim Mandas, I am the owner of Broadway Market & Café, 700 E N Broadway, in Columbus.

As a business owner and employer I am opposing the \$1.00 per pack tax increase on cigarettes. My business operation is just starting to show a recovery as the result of economic conditions. If this increase were to take place I believe it would have such a negative impact on cigarette sales which could result in the loss of income and possibly laying off employees, reducing hours of work for employees, possibility of health insurance and other employee benefits being reduced or eliminated. **One of my major concerns is, studies have already shown that with the high price of a pack of cigarettes it has caused an increase in crime such as theft and robberies.**

I respectfully request this committee review all the testimony which has been presented and vote no on this tax increase.

I am available to answer any questions you may have at this time.

Respectfully,

Jim Mandas