



## **CIOMA MEMBER ALERT**

**VICTORY!!!**

**SB 1400 DEFEATED**

6/27/16

### **CIOMA Members:**

SB 1400 (Wieckowski), the measure that would have outlawed tobacco sales in convenience stores and other common retail outlets, was defeated in the Assembly Business & Professions Committee today. There is no vote-count since the measure did not even receive a motion to support. B&P Chairman Rudy Salas (D, Bakersfield/Kings County) declared the measure dead, without a vote.

Committee members present, who did not allow the measure to go forward, were:

Chair Rudy Salas  
Vice Chair Bill Brough  
Assembly Member Catherine Baker  
Assembly Member Nora Campos  
Assembly Member Rocky Chavez  
Assembly Member Bill Dodd  
Assembly Member Susan Talamantes Eggman  
Assembly Member Mike Gatto  
Assembly Member Jim Wood

Over 300 convenience store owners and fuel retailers showed up opposing the measure - more than 275 voiced their discontent.

Tom Robinson, owner of the Rotten Robbie's chain, started opposition testimony, speaking on behalf of CIOMA and convenience store owners/operators across the state. He stated, "SB 1400 would radically revise the definition of a "retail location", eliminating the majority of California retailers who currently sell tobacco products - saying this is a radical change of the retail landscape is an understatement."

He went on to explain that SB 1400 would not only disallow a significant revenue generator in small businesses, it would have further consequences on sales of other products purchased by tobacco consumers.

He further noted, "Our industry is not dominated by one or two large companies. In fact, the majority of owners are single store businesses. Small business is the backbone of our economy."

In wrapping up his testimony, Tom identified a key flaw in the measure, which led many of the Committee members to question the measure's premise that it would reduce under-aged smoking. He noted, "...according to the California Department of Health's own tobacco control program research, tobacco shops show a higher rate of illegal sales to youth (14%, as compared to 4.2% in gas-only stores)."

In addition to Tom's lead-off testimony, representatives from the California Retailers Association, the wholesaler and distributor organizations and the American Petroleum and Convenience Store Association (APCA) spoke in opposition.

While the turnout at today's hearing was very impressive, the significant work performed by members of the c-store industry in phoning, faxing, writing and meeting with their elected representatives prior to the hearing must be recognized. In lobbying meeting, after lobbying meeting opponent representatives were commonly told of the significant grass roots outpouring legislative members were encountering.

We wish to thank all of you who invested valuable time and effort in defeating SB 1400. It absolutely shows what can be done if we work in unison and in large turnout.

Take a well-deserved 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend while remembering the valuable lessons a representative democracy can provide.

**NOTE** - There will be NO Government Organization Committee hearing tomorrow since SB 1400 was defeated today.

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