

My name is Kameron Hymer and I reside at 1706 1st Ave W in Williston, ND.

I am writing to ask that you support House Bill No. 1152, a bill for an act to amend and reenact section 23-12-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to cigar bars and lounges.

I agree with bans on smoking in most public places, however premium cigars attract a niche market and are unfairly tied into the North Dakota Smoke Free law which does not allow an exemption for tobacconists. After the passing of the Smoke Free law in 2012, it led to some tobacconists in the state going out of business. As of July 2018, 26 states have enacted bans on smoking in enclosed places. All but seven of those states have exempted tobacconists. Cigar lounges (bars) are typically only visited by those who smoke premium cigars. By allowing cigar lounges, it would not subject the general public to unwanted second-hand smoke.

With our long winters, a lounge would be a great place to escape the cold and enjoy a cigar with friends. South Dakota has exemptions for cigar lounges and I visit one in Rapid City when I make my way down there. It's a very relaxing atmosphere.

I appreciate your time and consideration related to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kameron Hymer

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