



House Committee business industry and labor,

On behalf of the Premium Cigar Association and Cigar Rights of America, we submit today our full endorsement of House Bill 1229 (HB 1229) and encourage the committee and legislature to support this important bill.

HB 1229 will allow small business tobacconists to expand their operations by allowing consumers to enjoy premium cigars on site and the buildout of cigar bars and lounges. This measure, in its current form, is and will be important for the development of small businesses in the local North Dakota economy.

Further, it's important to note that in many states the premium cigar industry has proven to be a generator of new state tourism and a contributor to job growth and increased tax revenue for the state.

HB 1229 would support the expectations of cigar patrons both within and beyond the state of North Dakota, allowing such small businesses to thrive and grow. With this act, North Dakota would join numerous other states in allowing the creation of cigar bars and lounges.

Lastly, it is important to understand the differences that exist between premium cigars and other tobacco products. Studies have shown that the occasional enjoyment of premium cigars has no statistically significant impact on the public health, nor do they have the level of risk associated with inhalation, addiction, and mortality.

We urge the committee and legislature to support this bill and stand with small businesses and cigar patrons in the state.

For more information, please contact:

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