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COLUMBUS, OHIO – The below statement can be attributed to Ohio Chamber President & CEO Steve Stivers following the Ohio House’s vote to override Veto Item Number 24 (Prohibition on Local Regulation of Tobacco and Nicotine Products).

“We thank the Ohio House for its vote to override Governor DeWine’s veto of language that would have preempted the local regulation of tobacco and vapor products.

Although this veto may have carried well-intentioned health outcomes, the exercise of such a piecemeal approach applied to 938 municipal governments only drives consumers to adjacent retailers beyond city and state limits where they can still easily obtain these desired products. Local retailers have had to weather the highest levels of inflation in 40 years, and they already operate under razor-thin profit margins— the average Ohio convenience store stands to lose tens of thousands of dollars from these bans.

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce is committed to eliminating the state’s health disparities through the promotion of healthy behaviors and targeted outreach to at-risk communities— just not at the expense of our local business owners. In just the past 18 months, at least 26 localities in Ohio have chosen to enact, introduce, or consider drafting prohibition-based ordinances like local flavor bans, without pressure from the state level.”

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