

Members of the Kentucky House Committee on Local Government
Kentucky General Assembly
Frankfort, Kentucky

January 27, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Premium Cigar Association (PCA), I respectfully submit this written testimony in support of House Bill 194.

The Premium Cigar Association represents manufacturers, distributors, and thousands of small retail businesses across the United States, including many family-owned cigar retailers operating in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Our members serve adult consumers and operate in compliance with federal, state, and local laws governing age restrictions, licensing, and public health standards.

House Bill 194 establishes a clear, narrow, and responsible framework for the operation of cigar bars in Kentucky. The bill defines cigar bars in a manner that ensures they are adult-only establishments, limits smoking to traditional cigars and pipe tobacco, and expressly prohibits other smoking products within these venues. These provisions are important safeguards that distinguish cigar bars from other establishments and ensure the bill applies only to businesses intentionally designed to serve adult consumers.

House Bill 194's having a cigar bar generate a range of its annual gross income from the on-site sale of cigars, pipe tobacco, and related accessories is an important and reasonable safeguard. This threshold ensures that cigar bars are cigar-focused establishments, not bars or restaurants attempting to reclassify themselves to circumvent local smoking restrictions.

Premium cigars are a distinct product. They are handmade, traditionally consumed without inhalation, and used by adults in limited, intentional settings such as cigar lounges and cigar bars. HB 194 recognizes this distinction and provides a regulatory structure that is proportionate, reasonable, and economically sound.

For these reasons, the Premium Cigar Association respectfully urges the Committee to support House Bill 194 and move it forward favorably. We appreciate the Committee's consideration and remain available as a resource should any questions arise.

Respectfully submitted,

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