Inquiry into Illicit tobacco Submission 19

lan cai owner TSG Sanctuary Lakes

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Dear Chairman

I write to make a submission to the parliamentary joint committee on law enforcement inquiry into illicit tobacco.

I believe that the tobacco tax increases over the past few years have pushed the prices of legal cigarettes beyond the affordability of most smokers in my area. As such, i have noticed a large amount of people coming into my store and asking for illegal tobacco products such as chop chop and imported cigarettes.

Because there is so much of the illicit product readily available in my area it has made a big difference to my sales in the last 12 months. If nothing is done i believe crime will continue to grow in regards to tobacco and many small businesses like my own will suffer.

Regards Ian Cai