



House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee
Garett Fortune
Ohio Hemp Association
Proponent Testimony
Senate Bill 57

Chairman Koehler, Vice Chair Smith, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the committee—my name is Garett Fortune and I am CEO of OdorNo and Commodigy, founder and managing partner at Funksac and Hemsac, and a board member of the Ohio Hemp Association. I am here today testifying in support of Senate Bill 57, a bill to legalize hemp in Ohio and create a state hemp program aligned with the federal 2018 Farm Bill. Thank you for the opportunity to be with you today to discuss Ohio’s role in the new hemp economy.

I live in Rocky River, Ohio—however I spend most of my time out of state, managing my hemp businesses where it is currently legal. I have a number of brands serving the hemp and marijuana industries, including FunkSac and HempSac, which provide smell-proof packaging to marijuana and hemp companies. In 2013, FunkSac began test marketing a new cannabis line in Colorado and we introduced the first child resistant exit bag to meet ASTM international and US Product Safety Commission Poison Prevention Packaging Act standards.

I founded Commodigy in 2009, which now includes a \$5.5 million lab in the Las Vegas area, where I purchase hemp from farms in Nevada, Colorado, Oregon, Kentucky, New York and even Canada to process cannabidiol (CBD) extracts. Those extracts are supplied to manufacturers who infuse other products with them, from lotions to seltzer water.

All of my products are manufactured at our Ohio facility and product materials are sourced from US suppliers to assure specs meet FDA criteria. We currently have distribution centers in Colorado, San Diego, and Ohio to meet demand, both domestic and international. I am very focused on helping the state-by-state regulated cannabis industry proactively meet FDA guidelines before they are eventually mandated and firmly believe we need to not only create national standards for the cannabis packaging industry but also eco-sustainable best practices.

I intend to expand my hemp extraction and processing business here in Ohio when it is legal and a program is formalized. I also have a number of Ohio farmers committed to growing hemp for our operation. Currently, the United States is the number one importer of hemp products. Ohio is in a position to help the U.S. become the number one exporter. Ohio is a logistics hub, with recent reports calling Ohio the “e-commerce capital”. This is good for

hemp-based businesses, as we are selling products globally. Ohio has four dedicated air cargo terminals, we have the fourth largest trucking industry, and fourth largest rail industry.

By way of background, the Ohio Hemp Association is a statewide non-profit organization, providing advocacy and member development services on behalf of Ohio hemp farmers, processors, distributors, retailers, and others engaged in the hemp industry. The OHA is dedicated to advocating for an industry-driven hemp program that is predictable, with an appropriate regulatory structure.

The OHA strongly advocated for the hemp checkoff program in SB 57, which allows for a fee from growers based on production volumes. If a hemp checkoff program is enacted, these resources can be used for commodity research, farmer education, and market development. There is no doubt that hemp farmers will benefit from education, research, and market development since this commodity has not had the opportunity to develop based on its historical prohibition.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on SB 57 and I am happy to answer any questions.