

Good morning Mr. Chairman and committee members. My name is Tim Johnson and I present today as a proponent to SB57 / Ohio Hemp Bill. I represent the Ohio Cannabis Chamber of Commerce and its members. Created during the creation of HB523, 131st GA Ohio Medical Marijuana Program, the OhioCCC continues to monitor the progress and operation of the OMMCP and develop collaborative connections amongst ancillary and discipline companies in the community. As with hemp being of the cannabis genus family we share an interest in the creation and development of all things cannabis in Ohio.

In our support to SB57 we reserve privilege to present language content we feel needs further addressed with less restrictive compliance rules and clarity to intent. May I mention current SB1, reduce regulatory rules, and SB3, visit and create new drug policy reform statutes. We share a strong sense these bill's reflect pertinent intent to the progress in creating the SB57 hemp program.

The present the following;

- 1) The Agriculture Director deserves the respect of authoritative powers in the decision making process as to their actions in the program. Consider addressing replacement of the word "shall" with the word "may" where applicable. This provides discretionary authority as the program develops and permits immediate change opportunities in the programs future.
- 2) As the 2018 AIA, farm bill act 2018, states on pages 422-423, "any person convicted of a non violent felony relating to a controlled substance". We find in SB57 page 4 lines 79-80, "any person who has pleaded guilty to or been convicted of a non violent felony relating to a controlled substance". Said language reflects a significant difference and falls short to the defence of federal language being mirrored to the language of SB57 as we have been advised. Consider redacting background checks as mandatory on the basis of hemp now being rescheduled and classified as a commodity and not a drug. We ask further review from the standpoint of the Ohio workforce pool being depleted over the last 40 plus years as a result of the War on Drugs and needless unwarranted continuance of punishment to one after they have satisfied their penalty requirements. It's time for realistic second chances and to rebuild Ohio's tax paying workforce rather than encouraging the growth of Ohio's tax free workforce.
- 3) Commodity v drug. The 2018 Farm Bill Act clearly identifies hemp as a commodity and removed it from the class 1 controlled substance list via descheduling hemp. May the Ohio Hemp Program language fairly reflect this intent. May it further clearly reflect the absence of any authoritative powers placed within the jurisdiction of the Ohio Board of Pharmacy.
- 4) Request to action, via the Governor's executive authority, to immediately cease and desist any and all authoritative actions and powers of enforcement from any and all boards/agencies/departments overseeing CBD product sales in the State of Ohio. In defence we present said businesses have been permitted through appropriate licensing procedures from the Secretary of State and local vending permits to operate for years without any repercussions of enforcement actions. Why now must we attack small businesses of Ohio for selling a commodity valued as a nutritional supplement?
In respect, let's stop the orange juice arrests and stop the 80 years of propaganda we have seen destroy so many lives, careers and families in Ohio.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in the creation of SB57. ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE?