

U.S. Hemp Roundtable

e: info@hempsupporter.com

p: 502.319.2358

u: www.hempsupporter.com

Board of Directors

Ananda Professional
Barlean's
Bluebird Botanicals
CBD American Shaman
CBD USA Grown
CV Sciences
CW Hemp
Elixinol
GenCanna
HempWorx
Koi CBD
Lazarus Natural
Lord Jones
Mediterra
Metacan
Pet Releaf
Presence Marketing
Pyxus
Rocky Mountain High
Brands
Turning Point Brands
Village Farms
Williams Ranch Co.
Zilis

Members

Abacus Health Products
AgTech Scientific
Atalo Holdings
American Herbal Products
Association
Botanacor
The CBDistillery
Cream
Criticality
ECS Distribution
Elemental Processing
Eurofins Food Integrity and
Innovation
Friends of Hemp
Gotham Green Partners
Harrod's Creek Farm
Hemp Industries
Association
Hemp Today
Lucky's Market
MJNA Group
New West Genetics
Pinnacle CBD
QC Infusion
Restorative Botanicals
Stillwater Ingredients
ValidCare
VAIHC
VitaGenne
Vote Hemp
VYBES
Zelios

TESTIMONY OF JONATHAN MILLER GENERAL COUNSEL, US HEMP ROUNDTABLE OHIO SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

March 13, 2019

Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Hill, Ranking Member O'Brien and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jonathan Miller, and in my capacity as General Counsel of the U.S. Hemp Roundtable, I appear today to strongly endorse passage of Senate Bill 57.

The U.S. Hemp Roundtable is the nation's leading business trade association of the hemp industry, representing more than 60 companies and organizations that feature participants in all parts of the emerging U.S. hemp industry, from seed to sale, as well as all of the leading grassroots organizations within the space. The Roundtable's primary mission is to advocate for complete legalization of hemp and hemp products at all levels of government.

The Roundtable worked with Members of Congress and the U.S. Senate to help secure passage of the 2018 U.S. Farm Bill last December, which ended the federal prohibition on hemp and permanently removed the crop from the purview of the Controlled Substances Act, designating it once and for all as an agricultural commodity. We have also worked closely with legislative leaders in many of the 41 states that have in recent years legalized hemp and hemp products within their jurisdictions.

In that context, we proudly endorse the efforts of Senators Brian Hill and Stephen Huffman who have drafted and introduced Senate Bill 57 here in the Ohio General Assembly.

Senate Bill 57 would finally permit hemp farmers in Ohio participate in the exciting and profitable new industry. It would also allow Ohio to become compliant with the permanent hemp program regime permitted by the 2018 Farm Bill by:

- Adjusting to the new, broader definition of "hemp";

Paid for by U.S. Hemp Roundtable, Inc., an independent, nonprofit organization exempt from federal taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to U.S. Hemp Roundtable, Inc. are not deductible as charitable donations for federal income tax purposes. 250 West Main Street, Suite 2800, Lexington, KY 40507.

www.hempsupporter.com

- Developing procedures to design a state hemp program and secure approval by the USDA; and
- Providing for enforcement penalties and the opportunity for corrective actions as outlined in the new federal legislation

Furthermore, Senate Bill 57 provides a funding mechanism that allows the Ohio Department of Agriculture to pay for administration through user fees, as opposed to relying on scarce taxpayer dollars.

Finally and importantly, the model legislation would also provide state legal protection for the sale of hemp products that are permitted under the new federal law that offer the most profitable economic opportunities for U.S. farmers. This includes cannabidiol (“CBD”) products but only those that are derived from hemp and that contain less than 0.3% THC, the intoxicating compound found in much higher concentrations in marijuana.

The issue of hemp-derived CBD sales in Ohio has encountered recent controversy in the Buckeye State, when last year, the Ohio Board of Pharmacy, declared that such products could only be sold in marijuana dispensaries. We disagree with that conclusion, but agree that more legislative clarity is in order. Senate Bill 57 would remove hemp products from the Board of Pharmacy’s jurisdiction and ensure that they could be sold safely and effectively to a growing consumer market.

I want to keep my remarks short to take as many questions from committee members that you wish to ask. I thank you for this opportunity to present before the committee.