

Chairman Michael Rulli
Senate Committee General Government

Senate Bill 9, 2023

March 7, 2023

Grant Hearing Room

3 p. m.

In Opposition to SB9

Introduction:

My name is Carol Cain, and I am here representing Ohio LLC Spartan Fire Farms. I am a business partner of the owner of Spartan Fire Farms, LLC, Mr. David Loftus. We are located north of Marysville, Ohio in Union County.

Position:

Mr. Loftus and I are **opposed to SB9**.

Reason for Opposition of SB9: Medical Marijuana

Eliminates Competition

SB9 eliminates any competition for new cultivators to do business in Ohio. Our company is associated with two cultivators in Oklahoma that grow consistent top shelf product. We would like to build a cultivator facility in Ohio as we currently own property here: but there is no current process for new licenses. This bill eliminates any potential of new cultivators now or in the future.

By eliminating any mechanism for competition in the market for medical marijuana, the State drives consumers to less product and consequently to black market sources: both cartel and other states (i.e. Michigan).

Competition is meant to be good for the consumer's ability to choose. Consumers will buy quality product when available or they will go to other sources that are not legal in Ohio.

Our country and state depend on an atmosphere of competition for our citizens to have legal products available to them and giving them choices. *This bill eliminates the ability for consumers to choose and new companies to enter the market.* By eliminating competition, the state also stops any potential for better products in the future as new companies tend to introduce new products and better quality.

Regulations

Regulations are good for the industry and the consumer. Regulating quality of product is good for the marketplace. Regulations are also meant to eliminate bad products, deceiving production practices and sales.

***Our company welcomes regulations on the product quality and our production –
NOT the ability to cultivate.***

Enforcement of the regulations ensures consumers get a better product.

Enforcement:

Our Company encourages strict enforcement of black market and out of state sales to Ohio residents, however if product is not available to the consumer, the State gives them little choice. Opening up the availability of product for Ohio residents helps create a market place that is legitimate. They won't have to drive to Michigan or buy from illicit vendors.

One of our advisors is a former Columbus Police Officer who worked closely with DEA. We are aware that cartels are here. The state needs to concentrate on finding ways of enforcing laws but still enabling consumers to purchase Medical Marijuana legally.

Enforcement and opening up the ability for new companies to cultivate are the roads to a better, safer product.

In Closing:

We at Spartan Fire Farms, LLC are opposed to SB9 limiting new cultivators ability to become licensed to grow medical marijuana in Ohio. Limiting the product in production and availability is not something the State should do.

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