

Ohio Senate General Government Committee

Senate Bill 9

Brent M. Evans, Ohio Green Systems

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Chairman Rulli, Vice Chairman Schuring, Ranking Member DeMora and members of the Senate General Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on Sub Senate Bill 9 (L_135_0106-3).

I am Brent Evans and I work for Ohio Green Systems, an Ohio owned, stand-alone processor in Garfield Hts. I am also new to the medical Marijuana program in Ohio; therefore, I may have a different perspective than some others. Thank you for your time this morning.

I stand in opposition of SB9 for 3 reasons; Economics of oversaturation, the loss of jobs and businesses, the 30% THC sold to Medical Marijuana patients.

When I started, less than 9 months ago, Ohio Green Systems began purchasing Biomass for \$350 - \$450 per pound. Today, I field calls asking if I would be interested in buying biomass for \$50-\$100/per pound. An example of oversaturation within the program. Cultivators cannot hire/employ people and maintain their business selling at that price point.

Ohio Green Systems has been hiring within our Extraction, Production, Fulfillment, Sales and Operations departments. Jobs in NE Ohio. Extraction/processing of marijuana is science and technology. Ohio Green Systems using an extraction method call Cryo-ethanol extraction, where we cool both the biomass and ethanol to sub-zero temperatures (below -40 C) The safety and well-being of our employees is always top priority, not something you can just add to any business and expect it to be done safely. Jobs that would be lost if SB9 passes and you hand all Level 2 cultivators a Processing License, something they could have applied for in previous applications.

Sub SB9 includes a 30% THC limit on Medical Marijuana sold to patients. Based on our previous products, that would be 62% decrease for our Vape Pens and potentially our solventless products as well. Ohio Green Systems would no longer make Vape pens, because there would be no demand. Patients would go to Michigan or elsewhere and get above 70% THC. The cost to reduce our oil to 30% would not be cost effective, even if there was a market left in Ohio. The patients would be paying more for less.

Sub SB9 doesn't help the medical marijuana program or employees within the program as the number of patients doesn't increase but the supply of material increases to a point of lost business, lost jobs, and lost tax revenue. Sub SB9 also doesn't help patients as it reduces the THC to less than ½ of today's regulations, forcing them to go elsewhere to find the medicine they need. Causing a domino effect of less patients, less product needed, less business in the Medical Marijuana program.