

Chairman Rulli, Vice-Chair Huffman, Ranking Member DeMora and members of the Senate General Government Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Substitute House Bill 86 as adopted by the Senate General Government Committee. My name is Linda Hondros and I am the owner of Purpose Leaf which is a processor in the medical marijuana program and soon to be in the adult use program as well

At the outset, we want to extend our appreciation to this committee and the work that has been done in short-order to put together a very thoughtful program that we believe makes some great improvements.

In particular, thank you to Senator Rob McColley and members of this committee for removing all of the license hand-outs that were included in the initiated statute. We appreciated your comments about the formation of an oligopoly where stand-alone processors were left out completely and would have been negatively impacted in a significant way.

We welcome the opportunity to apply for dispensaries and other licenses as the program demands because we are confident we can compete fairly on quality, suitability and operability based on the success of our compliant businesses.

Thank you for the language that would protect consumers from Delta 8 and other substances that aren't tested or approved.

Thank you for maintaining the integrity of the Medical program which we strongly believe in and for making sure any adult use dispensary can also serve medical patients. We also appreciate the differentiation of THC content between medical and adult use products.

We would respectfully request the committee's consideration of the following:

1. To align with the current tax treatment of medicine in Ohio, we request the elimination of taxes on Medical Marijuana.
2. The Medical Marijuana license should be on a similar renewal cycle as your driver's license and let the patient choose 4 years or 8 years to further promote patient access and uphold the medical market.
3. To help achieve your intended goal of eliminating the black market, we would respectfully request consideration of removing or reducing the gross receipts tax on cultivators.

Thank you again for this thoughtful proposal. We look forward to opportunity to answer questions or work with you on a final senate draft.

Sincerely,

Linda Hondros

Purpose Leaf, LLC