

## Written Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 326

Dear Members of the Ohio Senate,

I'm honored to share my expertise with you. I am a Cannabis Humans and History instructor at Hocking College I am also an advisor to The Cannabis Museum. With a Master's in Sustainable Agriculture from Ohio University, a Bachelor's in environmental science from Rio Grande University, and an Associate's in Natural Resources Management from Hocking College, I'm committed to driving positive change.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 326, which, under the guise of addressing intoxicating hemp products, poses a severe threat to the livelihoods of hemp farmers across our state who have operated with integrity and in full compliance with existing laws.

Ohio farmers, including myself, have invested significant time, resources, and energy into cultivating hemp as a valuable and legitimate crop. We have followed the strict regulations established by both the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the federal government to ensure that our products are safe, compliant, and beneficial to consumers. The proposed bill not only undermines these efforts but also disregards the potential economic and environmental benefits hemp farming brings to our state.

The hemp industry has provided an opportunity for farmers to diversify their operations, create jobs, and contribute to local economies. By targeting "intoxicating hemp products" with a sweeping and vague emergency provision, Senate Bill 326 effectively penalizes responsible farmers who have not adulterated their products or engaged in any deceptive practices. The bill fails to distinguish between bad actors and those who have adhered to the rules, placing an undue burden on farmers who are already navigating a challenging agricultural landscape.

Additionally, Ohio already has laws in place to address unapproved or unsafe substances. For example, Section 2509 criminalizes the production or sale of unapproved drugs or derivatives. Section 37152 ensures the purity of food and drugs, prohibiting the addition of unapproved substances to products sold in the state. These existing frameworks are sufficient to address any concerns without jeopardizing an entire sector of agriculture.

Hemp is more than just a crop; it is a symbol of innovation, resilience, and opportunity for Ohio farmers. Its uses extend far beyond cannabinoids, encompassing textiles, biofuels, construction materials, and soil remediation. Instead of stifling this industry, we should be fostering its growth responsibly and equitably.

Senate Bill 326, as it stands, will not only harm honest hemp farmers but also discourage future agricultural entrepreneurs from exploring the potential of hemp. I urge the committee to reconsider this legislation and work with the farming community to find solutions that target specific issues without decimating an entire agricultural sector.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.