



**Representative Ty Mathews
Ohio House District 83**

**Government Oversight Committee
House Resolution 60 – Sponsor Testimony
Tuesday, April 6, 2025**

I am honored to present testimony in strong support of House Bill 198, legislation aimed at regulating the manufacture, distribution, and sale of inhalable and ingestible hemp products in Ohio. This bill represents a pivotal step toward establishing a comprehensive regulatory framework that ensures consumer safety while fostering a business-friendly environment for Ohio's burgeoning hemp industry.

This bill addresses The rapid proliferation of hemp-derived products, particularly those intended for inhalation and ingestion, has underscored the urgent need for clear regulatory guidelines, while fostering a Business-Friendly Environment.

House Bill 198 brings structure to this space. It updates the legal definition of hemp, sets enforceable THC limits, and gives state agencies the authority to regulate these products. It also puts safeguards in place to restrict youth access and marketing tactics that are clearly designed to appeal to minors. The bill aims to eliminate bad actors and unsafe products from the market without imposing undue burdens on responsible businesses.

In conclusion, House Bill 198 represents a thoughtful approach to regulating Ohio's hemp industry, prioritizing consumer safety while fostering a business-friendly environment. By

establishing clear and fair regulations, Ohio can protect its citizens, support its farmers and small business owners, and position itself as a leader in the hemp market. I respectfully urge the committee to support this vital legislation

Thank you for your time and consideration