

Chairman Thomas, Vice Chair Matthews, Ranking Member Isaacsohn and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as an Interested party to HB 198.

My Name is Joey Ellwood and I operate an outdoor hemp cultivation in Tuscarawas county, and I'm part of the Founding Team of Appalachian Girls Cannabis, who is blessed to be participating in True Low THC space, the Hemp Beverage space, and soon to be in the adult use space. Our Team and Family have endured many hardships as it relates to propagating this plant.

In this bill, I am grateful to see our lawmakers leaning in to regulation versus an all out Ban, which would drive my family's hemp farm out of business.

I can appreciate the request for Age Gating, and I'm in support of recognizing the need for label restrictions, and regulations

Requested Adjustments.

Consider other states' WIP (Work in Progress laws). These are table stakes for hemp farmers, as it allows them to transport an unfinished, "in process" product that may be hot, to another processor.

This law could also remedy the below:

AppGirls has Edibles going into the Adult use space, and it's genuinely a travesty that we can't use my farm's minor cannabinoids for those edibles, those gummies. Consider code that allows Hemp Farmers to sell into the Ohio Metric system so we don't have to use Minor cannabinoids from another state.

With tremendous support from many legislators I encourage this committee to use this bill (with a few changes) as the legislative vehicle for Hemp in Ohio today. Thank your consideration and I'm available for any questions.