

Good morning and thank you for your time and consideration.

My name is Sandy Hawes. I work for Beds 'n' Stuff in Grove City Ohio. We have been a small business in Columbus Ohio for over 53 years.
I have worked here for over 43 of them.

We currently employ approximately 150 employees in our 13 central Ohio locations.

We have always paid our taxes, paid for our licenses and any other permits needed to legally operate our business.

We do not sell to minors.

We have always kept the over 21 merchandise separate from the rest of our stores and have always verified our customers id's.

We recently spent thousands of dollars upgrading our cash registers so you have to scan a valid driver's license that proves you are 21 or older in order to buy any hemp or tobacco product.

We have and will continue to treat any Hemp related products like they are a part of the tobacco 21 law.

All the hemp products we sell are labeled 21 and over, have been third party lab tested and come with COA's which ensure that they meet safety and quality standards.

As you are probably aware, Ohio small business are struggling. Ever since 2020 sales have been down and costs have gone up. Amazon and Ecommerce have been a large factor in declining sales for us and other small brick and mortar businesses.

Banning or making Hemp Products dispensary only would greatly affect our sales causing layoffs and store closures.

Other states have successfully regulated Hemp derived products focusing on safety, quality, labeling and age restrictions.

Please consider voting **NO** on SB56
and consider **SUPPORTING HB 198**
a smarter regulatory bill that won't destroy small businesses like ours.

I am concerned for all of our employees and how the passing of and SB56 will negatively affect their jobs and livelihood.

We are a small close-knit business and our employees are like family.

Thank you again for your time and consideration,
Sandal Hawes