



March 17, 2025

The Honorable Kristina Roegner
Ohio Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

***RE: SB 86 (Regulate and Tax Intoxicating Hemp, Drinkable Cannabinoid Products)
Proponent Testimony***

Dear Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the Senate General Government Committee:

On behalf of the Ohio Craft Growers Coalition, a group comprised of a majority of the Level II licensed cannabis cultivators in Ohio (the “LII Group”), thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 86 (“SB 86”).

Generally speaking, LII Group members are small Ohio businesses. As Ohioans, we care deeply about public health and safety in the state, and as small businesses, we are disproportionately impacted by the large and growing market for intoxicating hemp products.

With respect to public health and safety, it is important that the SB 86 record reflect that many intoxicating hemp products are substantially more potent than regulated cannabis products. This is especially concerning because hemp products are effectively unregulated and are not subject to controls on manufacturing processes, quality and safety testing mandates, or packaging and labeling requirements. Notwithstanding the foregoing, consumers of any age can currently purchase these products at unregulated, unlicensed and unaccountable retail storefronts in Ohio in every town, if not on every block.

Not only are these retailers ubiquitous in Ohio, individuals who buy and use intoxicating hemp products are effectively left without any consumer protections. This means, for example, product labels are routinely inaccurate (and often use imagery and trade dress intentionally attractive to minors) without consequence, and – even more concerning – if a product makes someone sick or is otherwise dangerous, there is no way to track it or effectuate a recall. These are standard safeguards for nearly every item or substance we consume or use in the U.S. and should undoubtedly apply to intoxicating hemp products.



As to market considerations, a multitude of studies show that cannabis consumers treat intoxicating hemp products as substitutes for regulated cannabis products, most commonly citing lower prices and higher accessibility. When cannabis consumers, whether or not of age, decide to buy intoxicating hemp products, it means our small businesses and the state of Ohio lose revenue from those sales. And, while it may not seem like a significant economic issue to many, this Committee should consider that recent estimates suggest around \$1 Billion of intoxicating hemp products were sold in Ohio last year alone.

The provisions of SB 86 go a long way toward addressing the issues stemming from unregulated intoxicating hemp sales raised in this testimony. As such, the LII Group supports the bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

The Ohio Craft Grows Coalition

Ancient Roots, David Haley

Ascension, Fadi Boumitri

Fire Rock, Pete Pantelides

OhiGrow, Sara Payne

Paragon Ohio, Jason Wilson

Wellspring Fields, Tom Hobson

Ascend Wellness Holdings, Matthew McKenna

Farkas Farms, Louis Farkas

Galenas, Geoff Korff

Ohio Clean Leaf, Robert Landis

Sielo Jerdein, Peter Frisen