

**Interested Party Testimony (Written Only) on Senate Bill 261**  
**Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee**  
**Ohio Clean Leaf, LLC**  
**Robert Landis, Owner**  
**November 30, 2021**

Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Lang, Ranking Member Sykes and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 261. Although I am present at today's hearing, I decided to submit written testimony in the interest of time as you will hear from my colleagues that will articulate many of the same points. My name is Robert Landis and I am the owner of Ohio Clean Leaf, LLC, a small business that specializes in cultivating medical marijuana located in Dayton, Ohio. I come from a farming background as a member of a family of fifth generation farmers. In addition to my cultivating and farming experience, I am also the owner of Ag Container Transport, a trucking and logistics business, and Outerbelt Brewing, a craft brewery located in Carroll, Ohio.

I write to express support for the update of Ohio's Medical Marijuana Program to better serve and help treat eligible Ohioans for their various ailments. Patient demand for medical marijuana continues to increase, but unfortunately, many small craft growers like myself are not able to meet patient demand because of square footage limitations. As you have heard or will hear from other small craft growers, our goal is to create a workable statutory framework that promotes a competitive market providing for a quality product for patients at an affordable price. I appreciate Senator Huffman's effort on this legislation and the time he has invested learning about the industry by touring facilities and hearing from many interested parties like myself. The introduced version of Senate Bill 261 is a good starting point, but believe modifications are necessary to improve the legislation.

Craft growers similarly situated to Ohio Clean Leaf are limited to 3,000 square feet with the ability to expand only after going through an approval process at the Ohio Department of Commerce. To help solve this supply and demand problem, we support the ability to expand our small businesses by increasing our square footage. Our recommendation is to create a statutory framework that would increase our ability to initially expand up to 20,000 square feet. We also support the ability to expand up to 50,000 square feet, but only after meeting all licensure requirements, paying all the appropriate fees, and importantly, the number of patients seeking medical marijuana necessitates expansion in the industry.

Simply put, patients are not able to find the medical marijuana because demand is greater than supply. The reason is simple, the supply is artificially capped by the square footage limitations under current law. Many more Ohioans are eligible for medical marijuana than initially anticipated when the program was created over five years ago in 2016. I consistently receive calls from patients seeking our particular brand. Patients often find a brand or strain that works best for them. Because of the artificial caps on square footage, businesses like mine are not able to grow enough medical marijuana to supply patients with their preferred brand or strain.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I appreciate this opportunity to engage with you in our meetings and to provide testimony here on Senate Bill 261.