This is a statement of my testimony given on the sb 57 meeting on 3/13/19.

Hello,

My name is Julie Doran, owner of Meigs Fertilizer and #hemp, and founder of Ohio Hemp Farmers Cooperative. I come to you today as a farmer and representing many. My family farms about 4,500 acres in and around central Ohio.

I want to thank all Senators for their support and sponsoring this sb 57 for the legalization of hemp and hemp products in the state of Ohio.

There are just a few things I'm concerned with on sb 57.

1) What is the significance of the March 22, 2020 date?

If we have to wait until next March for this bill to take effect, we will not be growing hemp in Ohio not only this year, but next year as well. Even if we have to take the 90 days after bill approval date, that will be too late for a lot of farmers to prepare for growing hemp next year.

You see, if the bill has 90 days to take effect after signing, then the Ohio Department of Agriculture will then take 60-90 (up to 160 days) to produce a hemp regulatory program to the USDA for approval. The USDA then has 60 days to get back with the Ohio Dept. of Ag. with approval or suggested changes to the regulations. If the regulations are approved through the USDA, then there is an application process, which in most states take 30-90 days. Most states application process runs from November - January. If the bill was signed today, and went into effect IMMEDIATLY we are still looking at 160-360 days until an operating program.

Farmers need to know by next fall if they're going to be growing hemp for the 2020 season. With the nature of this crop, farmers need to line up banking, crop insurance, application process, and sign procurment contracts on seeds, machinery and equipment, and crop and property inputs for the upcoming season. We simply can't wait. If it went into effect IMMEDIATLY the least it would do is make it possible for the businesses who've shut down, laid off workers, and taken thousands of dollars worth of products off the shelf to be able to open their doors, hire more people, and sell their products again.

I encourage everyone to, please, contact the Governor for the consideration for an emergency executive order to legalize hemp, give jurisdiction of the program to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and allow Ohio businesses to thrive again. It would also allow for new manufacturing and infrastructure to begin for the preparation of the upcoming hemp industry.

An Emergency Executive Order is needed IMMEDIATLY to get this process started.

2) I would suggest an alternate use, other than human or animal consumption, on plants going over the 0.3% thc.

This is such a new industry, you can't allow the total destruction of crops going over the hemp 0.3% thc threshold. We need to be able to recycle those plants for an alternative use, such as: clothing, fiber, hempcrete, plastics, biofuels, ect. I would suggest going up to a 2%, so if a plant does go from 0.3% - 2% thc it would still be able to be used in an alternate use, other than human or animal consumption.

3) License fees: I don't believe this should be written in the statute. This is the jurisdiction of the Ohio Department of Agriculture and may need adjusted from time to time, and it would be too hard and time consuming to have to go through legislation again to do that.

I would suggest you leave a license and/or processing fee schedule to the Ohio Dept. of Ag. Just for your information, the majority of states fees range from 50-500 dollars. I would suggest keeping it to the less of that, such as $100.00 licensing and application fee.

Thank you for this opportunity, and I look forward to the legal hemp industry in Ohio. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Julie Doran

Meigs Fertilizer

#hemp

Ohio Hemp Farmers Cooperative

614-668-2721