

Maryland State House of Delegates
Environmental and Transportation Committee
Annapolis, MD

February 25, 2020

Re: Testimony in opposition of HB 510: Agricultural Hemp Research and Production Prohibitions

Dear Chairman Kumar Barve,

My name is Barry Pritchard. I am a natural products chemist, Loyola MBA and the owner of SunX Analytical. SunX, located in Cambridge, MD, is a vertically integrated hemp processing facility providing analytical testing services and manufacturing of wholesale and consumer products. SunX began its industrial hemp research effort in early 2017 under the authority of a US HHS NIH Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA). We are a recipient of a 2017 Rural Maryland Council Entrepreneurial Grant with the primary goal of developing hemp processing infrastructure and to raise awareness of the its benefits.

SunX is an active participant in the State of Maryland's hemp pilot program as the company has performed compliance testing and/or post-harvest processing for at least two-thirds of the hemp farming operations in Maryland. Further, SunX is a supportive partner of the pilot program's leading institutions of higher education's research efforts. Namely, Salisbury University and the University of Maryland's Wye Research Institute.

We are a tireless industry advocate dedicated to building awareness regarding the benefits of industrial hemp. The public's uninformed negative perception of hemp is the most significant threats to the industry's success.

While we empathize with those that claim negative health effects of hemp aromatic compounds, we would like to point out that there is little peer reviewed evidence to substantiate such claims. These naturally occurring compounds, known as terpenes, that are most often associated with **hemp** are **a-pinene**, **myrcene**, and **limonene**. These are all on the GRAS list.

From the FDA website: "GRAS" is an acronym for the phrase **Generally Recognized As Safe**. Under sections 201(s) and 409 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the Act), any substance that is intentionally added to food is a food additive, that is subject to premarket review and approval by FDA, unless the substance is generally recognized, among qualified experts, as having been adequately shown to be safe under the conditions of its intended use, or unless the use of the substance is otherwise excepted from the definition of a food additive.

Further, the adoption of the restrictions detailed in this legislation could pave the way to challenge the citizens of Maryland's "Right to Farm" affecting a diverse array of farming operations.

While the current agricultural hemp farming business opportunity is focused on cannabidiol production, the future for hemp in MD will likely be as a rotational crop grown for the production of a wide variety of harvested materials, including fiber and edible oils. It is widely accepted that the profitability of these harvested materials is significantly higher than soya bean or corn production. This additional cash will likely enable many farms to survive, prosper and contribute to the economic strength of our farming communities.

We ask of the committee to consider a longer view regarding the potential benefits of hemp as a viable commercial option for our family farms and vote in opposing of the proposed regulations.

Regards,

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