

January 19, 2021

Maryland House of Representatives Ways & Means Committee

RE: HOUSE BILL 217 By: Delegate Wilkins

Maryland Delegates,

I would like to offer my written testimony in support of HB 217 on behalf of Greenwave Dispensary located in Solomons, MD.

We are an independent woman owned and operated dispensary that feels a substantial burden from 280e tax code both at the state and federal level. Your smallest operators in the state are the ones that face the most sizeable burden of this archaic tax code. We must compete with vertically integrated, multi-state operators at every turn and our 280e burden is a major financial hindrance to being able to stay competitive.

I have built a team of 17 people. This team has become like a family to me and I want to be able to offer them health benefits. My payroll costs are so inflated due to 280e I cannot justify further increasing my man-power costs. Provide 280e relief and you will be making funds available for owners like myself to take care of our people.

You say you want diversity in this industry. You say you want to help Maryland small businesses. Vote in support of HB 217 and that is exactly what you will accomplish.

Respectfully,

Lauren Simpson

Director Greenwave, LLC

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Lauren Simpson

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