

Remileaf, LLC

February 28, 2020

Keeping the Promises of House Bill 2 in 2019

Good Afternoon, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify regarding HB 1449. As you know, today is the last work day of Black History Month and I wish to read you a quote from MLK which I strongly believe is relevant for this moment in history.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Quotes. The ultimate measure of a **man** is not where he stands in moments of **comfort** and convenience, but where he stands at **times** of challenge and controversy.

At times of challenge and controversial some of us will decide to do what is right while sacrificing self. While others of us decide to stand in comfort since it is convenience while injustice practices are care out before our eyes. In 1863 Abe Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation promising several things to African Americans in this great nation; however, after his death the leaders of the time decided it was inconvenience to keep those promises. This lack of willingness to keep the intent of the Emancipation Proclamation brought Dr. Martian Luther King to the footsteps of the Lincoln Memorial 100 years later in 1963 to remind the nation and lawmakers that there were promises made 100 years prior that African Americans were still waiting for them to be kept. Dr. King stated

“

One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. So we have come here today to dramatize a shameful condition.”

Just a weeks away from Bloody Sunday, Nearly 2 years after Dr. King speech on the Selma Bridge in Alabama the unfortunate Bloody Sunday accorded in 1965; President Johnson reached out to Dr. King and said I think the time is right to enact the voting rights, keep these promises. And with a power of the pen in 1965 the Voting Act Rights was signed. We have come here today as Dr. King asked the legislators of his time to keep the promise of a law that intent was to render fairness to **his** minorities' citizens over 100 years ago at that time.

We have come to cash our check that was promised to us in HB2 to increase minority's participation in the Medical Cannabis Industry in Maryland for of African, Americans, Native of Americans and women. MMCC has not taken the appropriate steps to level the playing field in regards to minority inclusion within Maryland's precarious cannabis industry. As demonstrated by their initial rankings where companies such as multi-

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national operator Acreage Holdings of which former speaker of the house John Boehner is a board member and stakeholder, and Anheuser Busch were among the top ranked teams for a grow license that was reserved for a Maryland Minority Owned Business.. There have been unmentionable irregularities, bias, undo influences during the 2019 application process.

For example, Part D Application Instructions were changed during the application submission period and after applications were submitted. The General Instructions provided detailed instructions and an example on how to name all files: "Applicant Name Submission Date_File Type. The General Instructions for Part D provided the following: **Important: All responses in Part D may not including the following identifying information:** The General Instructions during the submission period did not include instructions for redacting identifying file information for Part D, the requirement to redact was required for the response only. Furthermore, the General Instructions did not state that the file name for Part D could not contain identifying information until applications had been submitted, nor did the General Instructions provide an example as to how to name the files for Part D without identifying information

the instructions changed during the application submission period after applications had been submitted to the following new instructions: **Important: All responses in Part D, including the attachments and file names, may not include the following identifying information:** The Commission did not give notice to applicants that the General instructions had changed for applications that had been submitted prior to the change to the General Instructions

Such irregularities calls for corrective action and that can happen with your votes. Failure to allow for this bill not to pass with the amendments will result in continue transferring of wealth from Main Street to Wall Street where the wealthy and well politically connected own the industry here in Maryland. This injustice will create a class of individuals none minorities who gets richer and that wealth transcends into their next generation and generation. While another group of people who lack political connection and significant wealth will experience further impoverishment which also transcends into the next generation and generation and ultimately leads to a social economic divide not because they are not competent to grow and process cannabis but because the legislator of their time refused to delivered on promises made on promise bills.

On the issue of competency the applicants in 2019 have been one of the most educated and competent applicants I have been privilege to known. Among us we have agriculturist horticulturist, agronomists, chemist, pharmaceutical manufactures specialist, successful business owners for decades and so on. Some have worked at NHI design HIV/AIDS and cancer drugs while others were responsible for a whole nation farm to table program. So let me assure that competency shouldn't be an issue of whether we could grow, manufacture and run success cannabis business but opportunity not given to us by these cap licenses is the barrier to us demonstrating our ablates. (Are you sure this is the correct usage)

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I will leave you with Dr. King's words:

In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.

This is why you must keep the intent of HB 2 by voting for this bill and it's amendments so that EVERY Americans fall heir to the wealth that is generated from medical cannabis industry and NOT the well politically connected and wealthy.

Sincerely,



Small text box containing: 0001 AKINAGBE, June Akinnagbe, Date: 2017-08-08, Size: 254.7 x 88, Dimensions: 797 x 371 pixels.

June Akinnagbe
Chief Operating Officer
Remileaf Cultivation, LLC
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