

## **SUPPORT HB232**

March 17, 2021

Mr. Chair, Mr. Madam Vice-Chair and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Maryland Hemp Coalition, I write to urge support for HB232, which adds to the Maryland Agriculture Commission a seat designated to represent hemp.

The Maryland Agriculture Commission meets monthly, and advises the Maryland Department of Agriculture of issues within the various sectors of Maryland's agricultural industry. By creating a seat for hemp, the industry has a voice alongside the many other important sectors within the industry.

The Maryland Hemp Coalition formed in 2019, and represents growers, processors and sellers of hemp. The industry is entering its third year, with 70 growers and related businesses located throughout Maryland.

We urge your support of this legislation's very limited request to add a seat to the Maryland Agriculture Commission designated for the hemp industry.

Sincerely,

Kevin Atticks / Founder & CEO

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