



March 28, 2022

Honorable Paul Pinsky
Chairman, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
Miller Senate Office Building
2 West, Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

This written testimony is being submitted on behalf of the Maryland Healthy Alternatives Association in support of SB1006 with the proposed sponsor amendments. We believe that this bill would greatly benefit the hemp industry and consumers by creating standards for the sale and production of hemp consumable products which we in the industry have been waiting for since the passage of the 2018 Agriculture Improvement Act and the Maryland Hemp Farming Program. We believe this bill with the included amendments is a fair and responsible piece of legislation that will bolster our industry and do a world of good to both the businesses involved in the production and sale of hemp products as well as the consumers who need access to these products.

We feel that the proposed consensus amendments allow for SB1006 to move forward more favorably to all aspects of the Maryland hemp industry, while also eliminating possible conflicts with current proposed legislation that is placing certain hemp-derived cannabinoids under a study involving the Maryland Department of Agriculture and other state organizations.

As amended, SB1006 allows for the remediation of hemp that exceeds the total THC limit through dilution to the legal limit which will be a great benefit to hemp farmers/producers who would have had to otherwise destroy their crops, taking significant financial losses. Many other industries allow for this remediation to take place and are recognized at the federal level under the USDA's final rule.

We believe that this bill will serve to increase the economic benefits to our industry and our state as a whole. This bill will create jobs, bolster small businesses, and significantly increase tax revenue for our state while simultaneously allowing for the growth of an industry that will be able to pursue further innovation in hemp-based wellness products, fibers, biofuels, and building materials.

This amended bill is the one piece of legislation that our industry has been waiting for and we are proud and happy to show our support. This legislation is great for Maryland's farmers, producers, distributors, retailers, and most importantly, consumers. Thank you, Chairman Guzzone, for your leadership on this bill. We support SB1006 with the proposed amendments and urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Patrick & Daniel Simmonds