



SOUTH MOUNTAIN MICROFARM

south.mtn.microfarm@gmail.com 6138 Clevelandtown Road, Boonsboro, MD 21713

March 29, 2022

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair

Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair

Subject: Favorable with Amendments S.B. 1006 Hemp Farming Program- Use of Hemp and Hemp Products in Consumable Products

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Levi Sellers. I hold a seat on the MD Ag. Commission, I am an advising member of the Maryland Hemp Coalition and also an owner/operator of my families farm South Mountain MicroFARM, a state licensed hemp farm located just outside the town of Boonsboro in Washington County. Our mission is to provide products that not only improve the health of our customers, but also the community and eco-systems that surround us.

I am writing in support of SB1006 with the proposed amendments. I feel that the proposed amendments allow for this bill 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 MDA and other state organizations. These amendments have been agreed upon by both the bill sponsor and proponents of this bill.

SB1006, as amended, would significantly benefit the Maryland hemp industry by legitimizing already existing products, while also allowing for the remediation of crops that previously had to be destroyed.

Since the passage of the 2018 Agriculture Improvement Act and the Maryland Hemp Pilot Program hemp has been available in consumable products. This portion of the industry has been growing with interest from both consumers and producers, but full consumer confidence has been stunted without a formal legal structure to work under. This bill creates the needed legal structure for safe and legitimate hemp products to continue developing the market, while also building confidence for the consumers that need access to these products.

As amended SB1006 allows for the remediation of hemp that exceeds the total THC limit through dilution to the legal limit which will greatly benefit hemp farmers/producers who would have had to otherwise destroy their crops, with significant financial losses. The opportunity for remediation provided in this bill will allow the Maryland hemp industry to be more competitive in the market and further its economic development. Many other industries allow for this remediation to take place and are recognized at the federal level under the USDA's final rule.

I believe that this bill will serve to increase the economic benefits to the Maryland Hemp industry and the state as a whole. SB1006 as amended will create jobs, bolster small businesses and significantly increase tax revenue for Maryland while simultaneously allowing for the growth of an industry that will be able to pursue further innovation in

environmentally-friendly hemp based wellness products, fibers, biofuels, and building materials.

For these reasons I support SB1006 as amended and urge a favorable report with amendments. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MWS" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew W. "Levi" Sellers