

Positive Energy
Dispensary License D-17-00022
9939 Jerry Mack Road Suite 500
Ocean City MD 21842
410-877-2017

January 30, 2022

RE: House Bill 351

To Whom It May Concern:

We appreciate your time and consideration on a matter as important as the passing of House Bill 351 to reform the 280E tax code at the state level. The passing of this bill would not only positively impact our small business and local community, but also firmly reinforces the state of Maryland's decision of listing medical cannabis licensees as essential businesses.

Locally women-owned and operated, Positive Energy opened its doors to patients on January 25, 2018 after being licensed as the 22nd dispensary in the State of Maryland. Starting any new business is challenging and being subject to the 280E tax code at both the state and federal level created obstacles that I had never experienced in my 30 years of business at my previous occupation. I am fortunate to have a strong accounting background that helped me navigate the tax code, but it certainly restricts business operations and plans to better serve Maryland patients.

As you are aware, the passing of this bill allows our small business to be treated like any other legal business in Maryland. This is extremely important to us as we have expanded our facility to accommodate the many patients we see. With the expansion, we can better serve a growing Maryland patient population as well as helps ensure we can adhere strictly to all CDC guidelines in the wake of a global pandemic and the possibility of more to arise. With the expansion, our expenses have increased as we have a larger footprint and have hired more agents. Hiring more agents positively impacts our local community by offering more year-round jobs in Ocean City, an area that mainly offers seasonal (summer) employment. More focus would also be put on our local population through community outreach such as educational seminars on the therapeutic benefits of medical cannabis as well as the Maryland Medical Cannabis Program.

The passing of House Bill 351 will finally treat us as the legal business we are as well as allow us the benefits of tax deductions afforded to such. The State of Maryland legalized cannabis for medicinal use, established the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission to oversee the program, and listed medical cannabis dispensaries as essential businesses amidst a pandemic. We humbly ask that Maryland continues their support of the medical cannabis industry and the patients we serve.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and we look forward to you passing this very important piece of legislature.

Sincerely,



Denise Odachowski
Chief Financial Officer