



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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March 2, 2023

To: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support with Amendments of SB 508 - Hemp Farming Program - Use of Hemp and Hemp Products in Consumable Products**

On behalf of our Farm Bureau member families in Maryland, I submit this written testimony in support with amendments of SB 508. This bill alters the definitions of "hemp" and "hemp product" in provisions of law relating to the Hemp Farming Program. It also authorizes a person that produces hemp or a hemp product in accordance with the Program to include the hemp or hemp product in consumable products for sale by the person if the product is tested by an independent testing laboratory to ensure the product meets applicable safety standards and the delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of the hemp product does not exceed 1% on a dry weight basis.

The bill looks to address some of the issues within the hemp industry, but stops short of truly addressing the concerns of both the hemp growers and the industrial hemp farmers.

MDFB requests amendments to the bill. Amendment 1 is to create a limited farm cannabis license that would be administered through the ATC. This license would be separate from the recreational marijuana licenses as this license would be limited to farms that produce hemp in the 0.3% to 1% delta-9 on a dry weight basis. This license would also limit the amount of annual sales to be similar to the cottage food license. This fix would allow hemp growers to continue to operate while the US Congress works to amend the current federal hemp laws.

Amendment 2 is to expand the industrial hemp to allow for Hemp-derived fiber, grain, or topical products; hemp-derived feed products; and hemp-derived biofuels and bioplastics. There would need to be added language to the licensing regulations that MDA currently offers as well.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB 508 & REQUESTS A FAVORABLE REPORT AS AMENDED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396