



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

March 3, 2023

To: House Economic Matters Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support with Amendments of HB 1204 - Hemp Farming Program - Refined Hemp and Hemp Extract Products - Requirements**

On behalf of our Farm Bureau member families in Maryland, I submit this written testimony in support with amendments of HB 1204. This bill requires a person to receive a certificate of analysis before distributing refined hemp or a hemp extract product in the State. It requires the Department of Agriculture to establish packaging and labeling requirements for refined hemp and hemp extract products and establishes the Hemp Advisory Council to provide advice and expertise regarding the monitoring and regulation of hemp production under the Hemp Farming Program.

The bill takes a deeper dive into addressing many of the issues within the hemp industry, specifically the industrial hemp side. However, the bill doesn't truly address the concerns of the hemp growers in the CBD side.

MDFB requests 1 amendment 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.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 1204 & 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