



AMERICAN TRADE ASSOCIATION FOR CANNABIS AND HEMP

| 712 H ST NE, #518 Washington, D.C. 20002 | www.atach.org |

March 9, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Maryland Senate Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Maryland Senate Finance Committee:

The American Trade Association for Cannabis and Hemp (“ATACH”) is a 501(c)6 trade organization that promotes the expansion, protection and preservation of businesses engaged in the legal trade of industrial, medical, and recreational cannabis-based and hemp-based products. ATACH has been named “Trade Association of the Year” and “Corporate Grassroots Organization of the Year” by *Campaigns & Elections* magazine. ATACH’s membership includes some of the most influential businesses as well as state, national, federal and international cannabis trade associations and organizations. ATACH has also entered into a historic memorandum of understanding with ASTM International to develop standards for the cannabis industry and has recently launched a pilot Cannabis Certification Program in conjunction with ASTM International and the Policy Center for Public Health and Safety to help standardize the cannabis industry.

ATACH applauds the goals of the Cannabis Reform Act to expand social equity, create additional tax revenue for the state of Maryland, and create a safe, regulated program which allows for adult-use cannabis sales beginning this summer. Given ATACH’s national membership, including many cannabis businesses in states that recently implemented adult-use programs (Missouri, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, to name a few) we are uniquely situated to provide insights into avoiding roadblocks effecting the successful launch of new adult-use programs.

To that end, *all* cannabis-derived products with intoxicating effects should be regulated, taxed and controlled in the same manner regardless of their source. We support language that prioritizes public health and consumer safety by requiring consumable products with an even potentially intoxicating amount of cannabinoids to be regulated, taxed and controlled within the adult-use framework.

Not only will regulating, taxing and controlling intoxicating cannabis products in a similar manner promote public health and safety, but it will also allow the state of Maryland to recoup critical tax dollars that are needed to support its essential social-equity based goals.

ATACH thanks the Senate Finance Committee for the opportunity to testify about these important issues and remain eager to engage lawmakers to continue strengthening the cannabis industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Bronstein', written on a light-colored background.

Michael Bronstein
President and Co-Founder
American Trade Association
For Cannabis and Hemp