SB516 Charm City Hemp FWA

To whom it may concern,

I am the co owner of Charm City Hemp, opened in 2019 with our first location in Belvedere Square. We now have four Brick and Mortar stores in Maryland along with our website. Please review are fantastic google ratings, thanks to all of our wonderful and loyal customers.

We have established our business as the premier CBD and Hemp Boutique, with our huge selection of products, all safe and third party tested. Our staff has extensive knowledge and helps thousands of customers find alternative solutions for their needs.

Our business model is very successful and generates a huge amount of sales. Our company is in good standing with the state of Maryland, pays Sales Use Tax, Unemployment Insurance etc.

We employ over 20 residents, all paying Income tax.

This would all come to an abrupt end July 1st, if SB516 is passed in its current form. Not only would it be a tremendous financial ramification for me personally, our business and employees, but all of our customers would be devastated as well. Bankruptcy, landlords with empty store fronts, unemployment would be the consequences.

The voters of Maryland have asked for the legalization of recreational adult use, and we support that, but the public does not want to destroy the CBD and hemp industry. Why is there even certain language added in this bill to make almost all of the CBD and Hemp products we sell all of a sudden illegal in Maryland? Everything we do is currently legal on the Federal level, we are able to accept credit cards, have company bank accounts, insurance. Just like any other retail store.

Please help to make the amendments described below and in the attachments.

Thanks, Randy Shayotovich

We need your help to save the Maryland Hemp Industry by amending the Cannabis Reform Bill (HB1219/SB516) to change the permissible THC cap for hemp products that can be sold without an adult use license from what's currently in the bill [.5mg per serving and 2.5mg per package] to products

with less than 0.3% Delta 9 THC.

We would additionally like for hemp products to be regulated and tested within the newly formed Cannabis Regulation and Enforcement Division and for there to be hemp specific licenses that go to those businesses currently growing, processing, and selling these low THC products. The retail license would require that 90% of the sales of the current businesses be from hemp products.