

Senate Bill 516 – Cannabis Reform
March 9, 2023
Favorable with amendments

Hello ☀️

My name is Abigail Diehl, born and raised in Maryland for over 40 years and a local Annapolis resident for nearly half my life.

I have been working in the Maryland Medical Cannabis Industry since the application process in 2015. As well, I have worked with farmers throughout Maryland my whole life as my family owns a produce market, Diehl's Produce, in Severna Park.

As a serial entrepreneur, I have founded and operated multiple businesses in the area, including but not limited to Diehl's Produce (Eastport), Sunny C's LLC, and our newest venture, West Street Strategies. We are always doing our best to support Maryland in every way possible.

We are in FULL support of SB0516 with the following amendments please:

Pg.37 Line 5 “FEET, BUT NOT MORE THAN 100,000 SQUARE FEET, OF INDOOR CANOPY OR ITS”

any operation already over 100,000 square feet can use the extra space for incubator license and receive grant money for partnership with social equity license

As of now the rough comparisons for canopy space starting July 1st have the top operator at 300,000 square feet of canopy with the 2 next largest just over 100,000 square feet each, resulting in one wealthy white man controlling almost a third of the entire market. If we cap every operator at 100,000 square feet we at least allow a chance of survival for the future social equity licenses we are trying so hard to support.

Pg.40 Line 9 “PREAPPROVED EXPANSION AND 25%.”

If an operator was previously already expanding, they should still be allowed the 25% opportunity that everyone else is awarded.

Pg.40 Line 18 “CANOPY THAT EXCEEDS 100,000 SQUARE FEET OR ITS EQUIVALENT, AS”

Again, if we cap all operators at 100,000 rather than 300,000 square feet we also avoid oversaturation of product enhancing an already existing black market.

The consultants said we need about 4 million square feet of canopy for the adult use market.

Other industry experts believe that number to be closer to 2 million square feet. With the 300,000 square feet limit we are allowing for well over 22 million square feet. If we change that limit to 100,000 square feet, as desired by most of the market, we quickly drop the total canopy to about 8 million square feet, still high however much closer to the 2-4 million projected.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns!!

Thank you so much for your time and consideration!! Really appreciate you and everything you do!!

Cheers,
Abigail Diehl
adiehl@sunnyc.us
(443)569-2003