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Legislative District 1
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



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Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Senate Bill 525 – Economic Development – Program Participation – Cannabis Business Establishment

March 5, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Griffith, Vice Chairwoman Klausmeier, and Members of the Committee,

Currently, there is an untapped industry that can bring jobs and revenue to the State of Maryland.

Licensed cannabis cultivators and dispensaries are a new way to bring jobs and economic opportunities to the state and particularly the Appalachia Region that I proudly represent. In Cumberland, there is a company called Grow West, that specializes in growing and dispensing cannabis specifically for medical purposes. They have brought 150 jobs to the area and are looking to grow even more.

With this bill, enterprises such as Grow West would be able to apply for licenses for economic development and financial assistance. They would not be denied by the Department of Commerce and under the guise of Maryland Law, growth, processing, and dispensing of cannabis would increase as eligible business activities under the Job Creation and One Maryland tax credit programs.

Thank you very much and I ask for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Senator Mike McKay, District 1

Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland

Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties