

Testimony 3/9/23  
Senate Bill #516

Good afternoon committee members. My name is Ergibe Boyd. Thank you for taking my testimony on SB516.

I am the Founder/CEO of Theresam Farm Group LLC, a single-family farm in Prince George's County. We've grown wheat, corn, soybeans, tomatoes, and kale and have been growing hemp since 2020 with the permission of the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Theresam Farm Group LLC currently holds an Official Hemp Production Permit, License Number 24-003, issued January 26, 2023

Language in this bill will significantly restrict the types of hemp-derived products that Theresam Farm Group LLC produces and sells. While supporting the decision to include restrictions to the sale and distribution of chemically manufactured cannabinoids like delta (8) THC, I'm in staunch opposition to the adoption of the THC limits to naturally-occurring hemp-derived products detailed in Section 36-1103, Page 69, Line 23-29. These limits are in clear contradiction to the Federal standards as outlined in the 2018 Farm Bill and do not take into account the credible pharmacological studies showing that CBD reduces both the potency and efficacy of THC. Our products have provided relief from anxiety, pain, and PTSD for many of our customers with no intoxicating side effects. Further, it would require my farm, that currently operates under Federal law, to register and submit to the regulations of an industry that operates outside of Federal law. That doesn't make sense.

The passage of this Bill as it now reads will place my farm, which produces tinctures, lotions, and specialty hemp herb teas, at a significant disadvantage in the market and, in my opinion, is a direct attack on the MD Right to Farm statute. A potential solution to the proposed restrictions would be to change the language to raise the limits to reflect the Federal THC threshold of 3mg THC per hemp-derived CBD per serving and 90mg per package. As a compromise, restrictions on the use of the marketing term "Hemp-derived THC" could be adopted.

Thank you for your consideration of the proposed amendments and look forward to your support of the industrial hemp industry in Maryland. My position is in support of the Bill with amendment.

Regards,

Ergibe A. Boyd  
Founder/CEO  
Theresam Farm Group LLC