

SB 516 (HB 556) – CANNABIS REFORM - FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

Madame Chair and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Gary Flythe, and I am an owner of Organic Remedies MD. Organic Remedies was awarded a processing facility license as a result of the 2019 RFA that was focused on ensuring diversity and inclusion in Maryland's cannabis program.

In January of this year, we submitted a completed Stage 2 application along with the associated fee. We have worked closely with our assigned investigator and provided to her any and all items requested. Our ownership group has completed their criminal history background checks and those results have been confirmed as received by MMCC. Our ownership group has been investigated and interviewed by MMCC's 3rd party financial firm and their final report has been completed and submitted. We have submitted all documents required for pre-inspection and have requested for the physical inspection to be conducted, as our deadline for becoming operational is March 30th.

We are ready to begin operations and we have been ready for weeks.

However, we have just been notified that our license approval will not be considered or issued at the final MMCC meeting which takes place on March 21st. As such, they have requested for us to submit a request for extension from our operational deadline.

This is not an extension we want or need, however MMCC has told us that they will not be able to finalize their end of things prior to the commission disbanding. We understand the commission is busy, but we have devoted a tremendous amount of time, effort, and money to get to this point; and, we have provided everything that is needed to become operational under the current rules and deadlines.

We are concerned that we, and any other pre-approved applicants who may be in a similar situation, will be adversely affected if those rules and procedures change as a result of events that are beyond our control.

We are in full support of **Senate Bill 516**, however, we respectfully request consideration of the following items of concern being offered as an amendment:

EXEMPTION FOR PENDING STAGE II APPLICATIONS

There are several pending Stage II Applications for newly issued licenses to be issued by the MMCC. Such Stage II applications may not receive approval from the MMCC at the March 21 meeting, which may be the last MMCC meeting. It is not fair that such applications may be subjected to rule restrictions and procedures from a different agency. These Stage II Applicants have complied with all applicable rules and regulations regarding for the issuance of new licenses and they are merely waiting for the MMCC and related agencies to process their applications.

For any pending Stage II applications submitted to the MMCC before March but reviewed by the ATC after the bill passes, the ATC should review the request pursuant to the rules and procedures most favorable to the applicants, in order to not disadvantage those applicants who submitted applications on a timely basis.

Sincerely,


For Organic Remedies MD, LLC