

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB132 and SB215, which propose event restrictions that would negatively impact small businesses like mine, Fingerboard Farm and Fingerboard Country Inn. As Maryland is now a legal cannabis consumption state, I believe these measures unjustly overreach by attempting to place private property under the control of the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA). Such regulations not only harm small businesses but also undermine the principles of fairness and individual liberty that our Constitution seeks to protect.

My businesses provide unique, community-oriented venues for safe and responsible cannabis consumption, supporting local economies and fostering social and cultural connections. These proposed restrictions would create unnecessary barriers to hosting events, stifling the growth of small enterprises like mine while favoring monopolistic interests that already dominate the market. This disproportionate regulatory burden risks eroding the diversity and accessibility of Maryland's burgeoning cannabis industry.

The proposed event restrictions would:

1. **Harm Small Businesses**: Fingerboard Farm and Fingerboard Country Inn are family-run establishments that rely on events to sustain our operations and serve our community. Imposing additional bureaucratic oversight by the MCA would increase costs and operational complexities, putting our businesses at risk.
2. **Disadvantage Consumers**: By restricting access to private venues where individuals can responsibly consume cannabis, these measures limit consumer choice and convenience. Marylanders deserve safe, regulated spaces to enjoy legal cannabis without undue interference.
3. **Benefit Monopolies**: These restrictions appear to favor large corporations with the resources to navigate complex regulatory frameworks, effectively squeezing out smaller competitors and consolidating market control. This goes against the spirit of fostering a fair and equitable cannabis industry.
4. **Infringe on Property Rights**: As a property owner, I have the right to determine how my private land is used within the bounds of existing law. Extending MCA authority to private property for events represents an overstep that undermines these fundamental rights.

I urge the General Assembly to consider the broader implications of HB132 and SB215. Instead of enacting restrictive measures that hinder small businesses and curtail consumer freedoms, I recommend pursuing balanced regulations that support responsible cannabis consumption while preserving opportunities for local entrepreneurs to thrive.

Maryland's transition to legalized cannabis should be guided by policies that prioritize equity, opportunity, and community benefit—not by imposing restrictive measures that serve the interests of monopolies at the expense of small businesses and individual liberties.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I respectfully request that you vote against HB132 and SB215 to protect small businesses, uphold consumer rights, and support a diverse and thriving cannabis industry in Maryland.

Sincerely,
Dawn Furman
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