



Opposition to Senate Bill 726

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of Grow West, MD, a licensed cannabis cultivator in Western Maryland, I write to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 726 (Cannabis Licensees – Bona Fide Labor Organizations and Labor Peace Agreements). While we support fair labor practices, this bill would create unintended burdens that harm businesses, employees, and the state's economy.

SB 726 mandates that cannabis licensees enter and maintain a labor peace agreement as a condition for license renewal. This requirement places undue financial and legal strain on businesses, particularly small and minority-owned operators, by increasing compliance costs, legal fees, and bargaining expenses. Rather than promoting labor stability, the bill jeopardizes business growth, job creation, and reinvestment in employees and local communities.

Additionally, the bill grants labor organizations the power to protest license renewals, creating regulatory uncertainty and potential legal battles—as seen in Oregon, where similar provisions are being challenged in court. This would increase administrative burdens on the state, delay licensing processes, and reduce tax revenue from a key economic sector.

Maryland's cannabis industry is still evolving, and policies should foster stability, not hinder it. SB 726 imposes a one-size-fits-all mandate that disrupts successful employer-employee relations, discourages investment, and risks market consolidation—ultimately harming workers, businesses, and the state's financial interests.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the Committee to vote unfavorably on SB 726.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Susan Valois, President
Grow West, MD LLC

