

Hi [Legislator's Name],

My name is [Your Name] and I'm a resident of [insert neighborhood / town]. I want to bring to your attention a matter that deeply affects myself, our community, and Tennessee businesses.

As a concerned member of our community who benefits from safe access to hemp products, I am seeking your support in preserving my safe access to hemp products. I am also requesting that you help in protecting my fellow Tennesseans who work in the hemp industry.

In 2023, the Tennessee Hemp Industry celebrated the passage of SB378 / HB403, a significant milestone that created a safe and regulated marketplace for hemp products. Unfortunately, my optimism took a hit when the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) published rules in December 2023 that could potentially criminalize smokable hemp products.

The proposed rules by the TDA aim to eliminate THCA and CBD flower, vapes, and concentrates within the state. This could not only undermine the legitimate hemp market but also empower law enforcement to arrest manufacturers, retailers, and consumers for selling or possessing these products.

As a representative of our community, I urge you to consider the broader implications of these rules on public safety, crime rates, and the economic well-being of our state. If implemented, it may drive consumers back to the illicit market, undermining the progress made by licensed and regulated hemp product retailers in TN. Forcing people to resort to the illicit market not only heightens the risk of criminal activity but also exposes individuals to potentially harmful substances like fentanyl and other toxins. It's crucial to recognize that people will seek out these products, legal or not, and restricting legal avenues may inadvertently contribute to increased crime rates and unintentional overdoses.

Beyond the immediate impact on consumers, regulated programs have demonstrated broader societal benefits. The approved 6% tax revenue generated by hemp products can be reinvested into communities, supporting schools, parks, social services, infrastructure, and more.

I firmly believe that the proposed rules misinterpret the intent of SB378 / HB403. The collective goal of the Hemp Industry and lawmakers was to establish a legitimate, safe,

and well-regulated marketplace, not to impose an outright ban on smokable hemp products.

I'm asking for you to amplify my voice by expressing opposition to these proposed rules from now until the Public Hearing on Feb 6th, 2024. Until then, there is an opportunity to influence potential changes to the rule language.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing issue. I appreciate your commitment to ensuring the continued well-being of our community and the success of Tennessee's hemp industry.

Best regards,

[Your Full Name]