



**CARRINGTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC**

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## **SB508 – Hemp Farming Program - Use of Hemp and Hemp Products in Consumable Products**

### **UNFAVORABLE**

Carrington & Associates, LLC, requests a UNFAVORABLE report for SB508. This bill alters the definition of "hemp" and "hemp product" in provisions of law relating to the Hemp Farming Program; and authorizing a person that produces hemp or a hemp product in accordance with the Program to include the hemp or hemp product in consumable products for sale by the person if the product is tested by an independent testing laboratory to ensure the product meets applicable safety standards and the delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of the hemp product does not exceed 1% on a dry weight basis.

While we appreciate that farmers growing hemp would like to create new revenue streams for themselves, we strongly believe that the original intent of the hemp laws passed in Maryland was for farmers and educational institutions to come up with best practices for where in the state to grow and process hemp. We had videos showing auto parts, biofuel, paper, upholstery and other textile items. To our recollection, the thought of consumable products was never considered. Furthermore, those testifying in support of the original hemp bills, ensured the General Assembly that they could control the amount of THC in their products to under the limits established for hemp and would subject their products to independent testing labs.

As we move to create a stable cannabis market in Maryland, this bill, in our humble opinion, can be used to undermine those efforts. The black market will always find a way to survive, this bill could help it thrive. We ask that this Committee carefully considers the impact this bill could have on the legal cannabis industry.

For the stated reasons, we ask for a UNFAVORABLE report on SB508. Please feel free to contact Darrell Carrington, at [darrell.carrington@verizon.net](mailto:darrell.carrington@verizon.net), if you would like any additional information.