



**CARRINGTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC**  
*Integrity. Passion. Results*  
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**House Bill 1474\Senate Bill 469 – Maryland Cannabis Administration – Cannabis  
Licensing – Protests of Renewal**

**OPPOSE**

Carrington & Associates, LLC is writing to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 469 and House Bill 1474, and we kindly request that the committee returns an unfavorable report on these bills.

While we understand the importance of addressing concerns within the community regarding cannabis licensing, we believe that these bills go too far in granting residents excessive control over legitimate and well-functioning businesses. The provisions outlined in SB469/HB1474 authorize specific individuals to file protests against license renewals, potentially putting legal businesses at risk of losing their livelihoods and investments. The requirement for at least 10 individuals, all residing within 1,000 feet of the licensed premises, to file a protest seems arbitrary and could lead to the exploitation of the system by a minority group with personal agendas.

Moreover, the criteria for filing a protest are broad and subjective, including violations of Title 36 of the Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article, violations of civil or criminal law, and conduct that disturbs public peace. While it is crucial to address genuine concerns, there are already existing zoning and legal remedies that can be enforced to shut down businesses operating outside the law and community standards.

Granting residents the authority to influence license renewals through protests could have a chilling and devastating effect on economic development. Legal businesses that contribute positively to the community should not be subjected to the potential misuse of this authority by a minority group.

We strongly urge the committee to reconsider the implications of SB469/HB1474 on legitimate businesses and economic development. Instead, we propose that we focus on strengthening the existing regulatory framework and enforcement mechanisms to address any legitimate concerns within the community. Thank you for your time and consideration. We trust that the committee will carefully weigh the potential consequences of these bills and make a decision that promotes fairness, economic development, and the well-being of legal businesses.

Please do not hesitate to contact Darrell Carrington, Founding Board Member and former Executive Director of the Maryland Cannabis Industry Association (MDCIA), at 732-763-7398 or [darrell.carrington@verizon.net](mailto:darrell.carrington@verizon.net).