



March 25, 2024

Chair Stephenson and Commerce Committee members,

My name is Glenn McElfresh and I am a co-founder of Plift, a black-owned, hemp-derived beverage company successfully operating in Minnesota.

First and foremost, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations and deep appreciation to Chair Stephenson, and all of the members who worked so hard to pass HF100 last year. HF100 is nationally recognized as the most equity-centric and pro-free market cannabis bills in America - we're only just beginning to feel the impact of the work you and your colleagues put into passing HF100 last session. Thank you.

For background, I have spent the past eleven years working in the cannabis industry across the country, including as a Chief Compliance Officer, an application writer, and a CEO of small hemp businesses, and I am writing to you in **enthusiastic support of Representative West's HF4629**.

HF4629 creates more opportunities for small, agriculturally focused hemp businesses while strengthening consumer protections across Minnesota. Section 1 of HF4629 permits the sale of full-spectrum hemp beverages and edibles. Hemp farmers are not currently able to sell their hemp extract without significant post-harvest processing into safe, yet highly refined hemp extracts. This Section will allow Minnesota hemp farmers to sell minimally unprocessed hemp extract to breweries and companies making lower-potency hemp edible products.

Section 3, 6, 7, and 8 of HF4629 add CBN and CBC to the list of non-intoxicating cannabinoids which are approved by the Office of Cannabis Management and make conforming changes. CBN and CBC products are non-intoxicating and will allow Minnesota businesses to offer more creative products into the free market.

Section 4 of HF4629 achieves the same goal as HF4029/SF4239. The section puts power back in the hands of bartenders, service staff, and hospitality business owners who want to sell lower potency hemp edible products for on-premises consumption by allowing them to determine who is impaired. This section effectively removes what is commonly called the “5-hour rule” and would provide much needed relief to on-premises retailers across Minnesota.

Section 5 of HF4629 raises the bar for testing labs used to test lower-potency hemp edible products by specifying labs must be ISO17025 certified. This fix allows lower-potency hemp products to use testing labs across the country, instead of being limited to Minnesota based testing labs which, as adult-use product testing needs ramp up, will have their hands and testing queues full.

Legalizing cannabis is complicated, complex, and nuanced, and I appreciate everyone who continues to work hard on this noble issue. I encourage you to support HF4629, and hope that it will be included in the cannabis omnibus bill.

Chair Stephenson, Representative West, and Members, thank you once again for the work you do to make Minnesota the leader in hemp and cannabis policy, and for the opportunity to provide you with written testimony.

Sincerely,

Glenn McElfresh

Plift

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