



Gourmet Hemp Foods LLC  
2601 Maury St BLDG 2,  
Richmond, VA 23224

2/24/2022

The Honorable Virginia Representative  
Virginia General Assembly | Virginia House of Delegates

Dear Representative,

The **Gourmet Hemp Foods Company LLC** has been in operation since 2016 educating Virginia citizens across the state about the benefits of hemp foods. Utilizing hemp seed oil our company has produced a line of sauces which can be found within Greater Richmond markets. Our hot sauce and BBQ sauce can, also, be found at Food Lion's throughout Virginia.

The reason our products are accepted by big box chains is because our hemp seed oil is **FDA GRAS (Generally Recommended as Safe)** making it no different than canola or sunflower oils. Moreover, hemp seed oil is further protected under Virginia's definition for "Hemp Products," being that pure hemp seed oil *'contains no more than 0.25 milligrams of tetrahydrocannabinol per unit dose or 1 milligram of tetrahydrocannabinol per package.'*

What concerns us most about **HB No. 897**, and the creation of the **Cannabis Controlled Board**, is the **obscure authority given**—*'The Board's power to regulate shall be broadly construed'*—without much of a public debate whatsoever. The bill, also, doesn't acknowledge all the FDA recognized hemp seed ingredients in any of its definitions.

In our opinion, there should be language within Bill No. 897 that reinforces and reflects FDA's three GRAS notices for hulled hemp seed (GRN765), hemp seed protein powder (GRN771), and hemp seed oil (GRN778). Currently, the language is vague and could negatively cast a chilling affect for all legal 'Hemp Products'; concurrently, we recognize that we may be beneficiaries since consumer misconceptions and expectations of 'Hemp Products' may be less diluted.

Lastly, as longtime advocates for all small Virginia businesses and farmers, it's a shame to see so many local constituents punished for bringing back local agriculture, processing, homeopathy and retailing in a fashion that has built economic security for so many. The Cannabis Control Board pretends to protect the 'unassuming consumer,' but, in reality, it's just another construct that exalts the establishment and embedded financials interests not within this state.

Bests,

Gourmet Hemp Foods Team