

PETITION: Amend HB 328 to Protect North Carolina Hemp Businesses and Consumers

To the Honorable Members of the North Carolina General Assembly:

We, the undersigned business owners, farmers, consumers, and citizens of North Carolina, ***urge you to reject House Bill 328 (HB 328) in its current form.***

While we support common-sense regulations—such as implementing reasonable age restrictions and ensuring child-resistant packaging—HB 328 as written goes far beyond consumer safety. **It threatens to dismantle a \$4 billion industry that supports over 15,000 jobs across our state.**

We specifically call for the following amendments before this bill proceeds any further:

1. Remove the "Total THC" Standard

The current language in HB 328 redefines "hemp" by implementing a "Total THC" cap. This standard aggregates Delta-9 THC with other cannabinoids like THCA, Delta-8, and Delta-10. This is a backdoor prohibition. ***By shifting the metric from a manageable 0.3% Delta-9 THC threshold to an all-encompassing "Total THC" limit, the bill effectively bans the vast majority of legal, non-intoxicating hemp products, including many beneficial CBD products.*** We demand a definition of hemp that aligns with federal standards without capturing these secondary, non-psychoactive extracts.

2. Implement Smarter, Not Broader, Age Restrictions

We agree that hemp-derived consumables should be kept out of the hands of minors. However, the current bill's approach to enforcement creates an unworkable "gauntlet" of changing regulations that penalizes law-abiding retailers. ***We call for clear, standardized age-gating protocols that protect youth without imposing impossible compliance burdens that force local small businesses to close their doors.***

3. Protect Small Businesses and Farmers

North Carolina has a rich agricultural history. Our state is uniquely positioned to lead the nation in sustainable hemp cultivation. ***HB 328, through its combination of restrictive definitions and punitive compliance measures, disproportionately harms small, local operators while favoring large, out-of-state entities that can afford to navigate the regulatory maze.***

We, the undersigned, respectfully request that you vote NO on HB 328 unless it is amended to remove the "Total THC" provision and replace it with a fair, practical regulatory framework that keeps our doors open and our products safe.