

**From:** Stephanie Boucher <cannabotanicalsvt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 10:21 AM  
**To:** Faith Brown <FBrown@leg.state.vt.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Commenting on S.58

Here is my written testimony,

I am writing to express my concern for the proposed fee structure for hemp processors under current bill S.58. I am the owner of CannaBotanicals LLC, a small-scale hemp business based in East Montpelier. As part of my business, I create a small line of herbal blends using VT-grown hemp. I try to keep my products affordable for people, which can be difficult when working on a small scale. However, I value the love and attention I'm able to put into my products being a small producer, and wouldn't have it any other way.

I am concerned that the proposed fee structure has three separate tiers for cultivators, but only one fee for processors. As a startup last year, if I were to have been faced with a \$1500 licensing fee, I likely would not have pursued product making as a part of my business -- I simply would not have been able to afford it. I am concerned that leveraging such a hefty fee on processors will favor only the largest of producers, and will discourage low-income entrepreneurs and small-scale herbalists, who in my experience create superior products and are more likely to value using locally grown hemp. I am also concerned that adding this fee to the business expenses of processors will only serve to further drive up the cost of hemp products in Vermont, directly impacting the wallets of consumers, many of whom already struggle to afford these remedies out of pocket.

If there is a tiered structure for cultivators, there should clearly also be one for processors. I propose that this structure be based on the volume of hemp being processed, since this is already a question being asked on the license application. I would also propose that processors sourcing their hemp from out-of-state be asked to pay a higher fee, as a way of supporting the local economy.

Thank you for your attention. Feel free to contact me with any further questions  
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