

I am formally submitting my opposition to the proposed retail moratorium included in House Bill 321. I also request that these comments be shared with the members of the Senate Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs Committee.

I have already emailed each committee member individually. This submission is to ensure my commentary is officially recorded for consideration.

As a Vermont cannabis licensee and small business owner, I am deeply concerned about the detrimental effects this moratorium would have on Vermont cultivators and entrepreneurs, especially those planning to establish their own retail outlets.

The proposed language of the bill—"The issuance of new retailer licenses shall be suspended until July 1, 2027"—effectively shuts down one of the few remaining paths to sustainability for independent cultivators. Many established retailers are integrating vertically and reducing their purchases from the growers who supported them initially, exacerbating the imbalance and limiting options for small producers.

While some areas may have retail saturation, many underserved communities still lack equitable access to licensed cannabis. A statewide freeze on new licenses does not solve this regional disparity.

More critically, this moratorium worsens the overproduction issues in our market. Cultivators lack sufficient outlets for their product, and restricting retail access only intensifies existing problems. This "too little, too late" approach threatens the survival of many small businesses.

This policy also threatens to derail one of Vermont's most promising new economic sectors. Since legalization, the regulated cannabis industry has generated over \$20 million in annual tax revenue, supported over 600 active licensees, and created more than 1,600 jobs statewide. A retail moratorium would stifle this progress, cutting off opportunities for continued growth and innovation—especially among small businesses and rural entrepreneurs.

I urge the committee to consider the broader market implications and the disproportionate harm this policy would inflict on the production side of the industry. Instead of halting progress, we should focus on creating equitable expansion pathways that support small operators and ensure geographic access throughout Vermont.

Thank you for your time and for including these comments in the public record. I am available to discuss this further or provide additional feedback if needed.

Warm regards,  
Ashley Bowen  
Owner, Emerald Visions  
[585.478.5989](tel:585.478.5989)  
[Ashley@emeraldvisionsvt.com](mailto:Ashley@emeraldvisionsvt.com)  
Alburgh, VT