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**Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Opposition to HB2168
March 15, 2023**

Chairman Rahjes and Committee Members:

Our associations offer this testimony in opposition to one amendment in the bill. That is the amendment in section 4 on page 8, lines 24-27, and the associated amendment on page 6, line 40. The amendment excluding certain hemp processors from the criminal history records check,

While we are not opposed to easing the demands on all processors, we believe totally exempting this segment of them is not in the best interests of public safety. We have worked alongside other law enforcement interests and the hemp industry over the years as the statutes were developed to assure the best efforts to control illegal diversion of controlled substances extracted in these processes. These records checks are significant in assuring bad actors do not infiltrate the industry. We believe all cannabis processors and those engaged in any processing of cannabis, including hemp, must be thoroughly vetted for past criminal conduct.

We support the position of the KBI in their testimony, offering a way to minimize the demands on the processors and their employees. That is through what is known as the RAPBACK process of the records checks. When the RAPBACK system is fully in place, the applicant would only have to have the fingerprints taken once. After that, any change of the person's criminal record would be reported to the appropriate licensing agency. This process will minimize the requirements for the records check and save costs for the processor and the employee.

We are not opining on any other amendments in the bill and have no position on those amendments. Our interest is entirely in maintaining some form of records checks on the person conducting the processing of all cannabis products.

We encourage you to make amendments to implement the proposal of the KBI to implement the RAPBACK process into the requirement, in lieu of eliminating the requirement all together as proposed in this bill.

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