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Media contact: info@micia.org

47,000 Jobs on the Line – Michigan Cannabis Workers on Their Way to the Capitol to Make Their Voices Heard

LANSING, Mich – Last week, members of the Michigan House of Representatives passed House Bill 4951 as part of the state budget, which would enact a 24% wholesale tax on cannabis in the state. This tax increase will detrimentally affect 47,000 cannabis jobs, jeopardizing the well-being of thousands of hard working Michigan residents that are employed in the industry.

"We grow more than cannabis – we grow families, dreams and futures," said Ryan Messerschmidt, director of cultivation for Harbor Farmz. "A 24% wholesale tax hike puts it all at risk."

Thousands of working Michigan residents are at risk of being laid off as businesses cut costs to stay afloat in an industry that already has razor thin margins due to market over supply, intoxicating hemp products, and illicit products being imported. Businesses and workers will heavily feel the effects of this tax increase.

Cannabis workers from all over the state will gather at the senate building and State Capitol on Tuesday, September 30 to make their voices heard and encourage their lawmakers to avoid these mass layoffs. With over 47,000 Jobs on the Line, the fight against this tax increase is far from over.

The 24% wholesale tax – in addition to the existing 10% excise tax and 6% sales tax – would give Michigan the second highest cannabis tax in the country, putting the state's industry at a national disadvantage for sales. Michigan will lose at least 30% of its sales along state borders due to having a higher cannabis tax rate than neighboring states. The state will lose revenue as consumers return to the illicit market to avoid paying high tax rates, also posing a public health risk as the illicit market is not regulated.

Join us in Lansing on Tuesday, September 30, at the State Capitol to interview the cannabis industry.