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## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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### Marijuana Enforcement Acts on Retail Violations

February 9, 2017 – ANCHORAGE: Today, enforcement officers of the Alcohol and Marijuana Enforcement Office seized items from several retail stores across the state containing CBD (cannabidiol) oil that appear to be offered for sale in violation of several provisions of AS 17.38, including requirements for testing, packaging, and labeling.

As defined in statute and regulation, this oil meets the definition of “marijuana,” “marijuana product,” and “marijuana concentrate.” The Alaska Department of Law confirms that products derived from the marijuana plant are regulated under AS 17.38 and that there is no separate provision under state law that allows oil with any particular composition of CBD or THC to be regulated outside of AS 17.38 and 3 AAC 306.

In a 2013 letter on marijuana enforcement from the U.S. Department of Justice—often referred to as the “Cole Memorandum,” the federal government has stated its “expectation that states and local governments that have enacted laws authorizing marijuana-related conduct will implement strong and effective regulatory and enforcement systems that will address the threat those laws could pose to public safety, public health, and other law enforcement interests.”

The state of Alaska concurs with this sentiment in its statement of purpose regarding marijuana regulation: “In the interest of the health and public safety of our citizenry, the people of the state of Alaska further find and declare that the production and sale of marijuana should be regulated so that legitimate, taxpaying business people, and not criminal actors, will conduct sales of marijuana; and marijuana sold by regulated businesses will be labeled and subject to additional regulations to ensure that consumers are informed and protected.” (AS. 17.38.010)

The Marijuana Control Board and AMCO staff will be managing this developing situation with the utmost care and concern. **Specific details cannot be released at this time because of the ongoing investigation.** Further details will be released as they become available to ensure that licensees and the public are fully educated and informed as to what the law requires concerning sale of marijuana products.

The Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office, along with the Division of Banking and Securities, the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, the Division of Insurance, and the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, is an agency housed within the Alaska State Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development tasked with protecting consumers in Alaska. For additional information about the agency, please visit [commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco](http://commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco). For additional information about the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development and its other agencies, please visit [commerce.alaska.gov](http://commerce.alaska.gov).

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