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Press Release

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COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Marijuana Control Board Rules in CBD Oil Violations

February 17, 2017 ANCHORAGE – In a unanimous vote, the Marijuana Control Board determined the CBD (cannabidiol) oil seized last week by the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) to be marijuana product, except that which is labeled as made exclusively from seeds and that does not also include the term “CBD.” However, in light of Senate Bill 6, a proposal currently before the Alaska State Legislature that would legalize industrial hemp and modify the definition of marijuana in AS 17.38, the board voted to retain possession of the inventory until the end of the current legislative session. Otherwise, in accordance with 3 AAC 306.830, the board would be forced to destroy the seized items. The board also elected not to pursue further action on Notices of Violation that were issued by AMCO staff.

During today’s hearing, the Marijuana Control Board heard testimony from representatives of the ten retailers whose inventories of CBD oil were seized last week. All products that were seized by AMCO enforcement officers will be secured in compliance with the agency’s standards for storage of seized items.

Because of the potential risk to public health and safety, AMCO took possession of CBD oil products at licensed retail marijuana establishments last week. Under current state law, all marijuana products must be cultivated, tested, and manufactured by Alaska licensees. Marijuana products must also meet packaging and labeling standards as outlined in 3 AAC 306. Among products seized were oils, syringe-style dispensers, chocolate bars, chewing gum, and caramel-flavored agave sticks that did not meet legal standards for sale in the state.

Additional guidance about the sale of CBD oil will be available later this month on the agency’s website at commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco.

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. For additional information about the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development and its other agencies, please visit commerce.alaska.gov.

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