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Dear Members of the CBJ Assembly and Planning Commission,

I am writing in support of the ongoing development of a wide variety of hemp and cannabis products in Juneau and state-wide. In particular I'm deeply interested in the therapeutic benefits of CBD, the non hallucinogenic phytocannabinoid, cannabidiol. I have seen positive responses to relatively low doses of CBD for insomnia, anxiety, mild to moderate depression, obsessive compulsive disorders, including eating disorders, which are notoriously difficult to treat, and pain. There is a large body of published research validating the medical uses of marijuana, particularly in the areas of managing pediatric epilepsy, and mitigating cancer pain and cancer growth.

As you are aware we are experiencing an epidemic of opioid abuse, leading to more overdose deaths than fatal car accidents in the US in the past months. CBD has no potential for addiction. It is a very exciting medicine and despite the US being nearly 70 years behind in scientific research because of years of unfortunate vilification of this beautiful and useful plant -- these barriers are lifting all over the country. Alaska, and Juneau, is poised to be a leader in moving forward with all things hemp. I applaud the work of the Assembly in carrying out the will of CBJ voters, which will not only bring jobs and revenue diversification to Juneau, but help stem the tragedies engendered by abuse of heroin, meth and alcohol.

The commercial leaders in the cannabis arena in Juneau are stellar citizens, mostly well known to you. Tracy LaBarge is arguably the most popular and steady restaurant owner in Juneau and has provided not only great dining options for the Borough for decades, but employs many people including younger folk during the summer months. John Nemeth, who has a background in restaurant development and urban planning, has been part of our community for only a few years but brings a great deal of business acumen to the Downtown Business Association Infrastructure Committee and plays an active role in DIG. He looks forward to being a generous contributor to the CBJ school district, and working with physicians to improve understanding of the therapeutic potential of cannabis. The third major partner is Ben Wilcox, a 20+ year Juneau resident who is passionate, as am I, about reducing the dependency on addictive substances we are witnessing in Juneau.

I recently heard JPD office Chris Sell say on the radio that to solve the heroin problem in Juneau we can't just focus on supply. We need to look at the demand side. Why are folks in such pain that they are willing to wreck their lives with quickly addictive substances? Cannabis is also known as "ditch weed." It grows easily, all over the world. It is an incredible gift from nature that can produce rope, clothing, fiber, animal feed, and gentle effective medicine. Moving forward with the cannabis industry is win-win-win. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested in scientific studies attesting to the healing powers of cannabis, particularly CBD, in an astonishing array of human ailments.

Sincerely,

Dr Emily A Kane

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