

August 26, 2021

*Transmitted Via Email*  
*Cannabis\_Reform@finance.senate.gov*

Senator Cory Booker  
Senator Ronald Wyden  
Senator Charles Schumer

Dear Senators,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Discussion Draft of the Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act.

The Alaska Marijuana Control Board has been statutorily empowered since 2015 to control the cultivation, manufacture, and sale of marijuana in our State. As such, we can speak to the importance and significance of continued state oversight of the emerging cannabis industry, public health, and public safety. We write to express our unanimous concern regarding the Discussion Draft.

As state regulators, we support the rescheduling of cannabis in a manner that legitimizes the cannabis industry so that licensees have access to safe banking, the full ambit of federal tax deductions, and expungement of at least misdemeanor criminal convictions. We further support rescheduling to promote academic and institutional research that has long been stymied by cannabis's Schedule I designation. We understand the importance of setting certain uniform standards for the testing and safety of cannabis and cannabis products, but continue to believe that state regulators have the better tools and the skill set to manage and regulate the industry most effectively.

Rather than introduce an omnibus bill like the discussion draft, we recommend that as sponsors you take an incremental approach to cannabis reform and first remove the federal impediments to the industry before imposing new federal restrictions on the same. We further recommend that the tax base on the industry stay at the state level so that states can set their own priorities for redress. For example, here in Alaska, collected excise taxes go directly to criminal recidivism reduction, substance abuse treatment, and cannabis education.

Last, to encourage passage and remove federal impediments, we recommend that the sponsors seek bipartisan support before introducing a bill such as this, which is more likely to divide than unite. A successful and safe cannabis industry requires no less.

Sincerely

THE ALASKA MARIJUANA  
CONTROL BOARD

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nicholas Miller  
Its: Chair

cc: Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Senator Daniel Sullivan  
Representative Don Young