



September 14, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1448 (Wallis) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), we respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 1448 (Wallis), which enhances local enforcement mechanisms against unlicensed cannabis activities.

Local law enforcement agencies and code enforcement struggle to effectively deter illicit cannabis operators who sidestep regulations and undermine the health and safety of residents and our regulated cannabis businesses. Enhanced tools at the local level are needed to combat this highly lucrative and harmful unlawful activity.

AB 1448 incentivizes local jurisdictions to use the statutory penalties for unlicensed cannabis activities by revising Business and Professions Code 26038 to allow a 50/50 state-local split of the statutory penalties recovered in actions brought by local jurisdictions, as originally enacted by the Legislature in the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA). Revenues from these actions will provide a much-needed source of funds to adequately cover the costs of enforcement actions and reinvest in illicit cannabis enforcement. This measure would potentially be a revenue generator for the State by incentive local jurisdictions to utilize Business & Professions 26038 framework.

Local jurisdictions are a critical partner to successfully regulate the commercial cannabis marketplace. AB 1448 will bolster safe access to the cannabis market by targeting enforcement against unlawful operators that undermine the legal marketplace and undercut local economies.

For the above reasons, we respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 1448. If you should have any questions, please contact Sarah Dukett (RCRC) at sdukett@rcrcnet.org, Ada Waelder (CSAC) at awaelder@counties.org, or Jolena Voorhis (Cal Cities) at jvoorhis@calcities.org.

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Assembly Bill 1448
September 14, 2023
Page 2

Sincerely,



SARAH DUKETT
Policy Advocate
RCRC



ADA WAELDER
Legislative Advocate
CSAC



JOLENA VOORHIS
Legislative Representative
Cal Cities

cc: The Honorable Greg Wallis, Member of the California State Assembly