



April 3, 2023

The Honorable Marc Berman
Chair, Assembly Business and Professions Committee
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 6130
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1448 (Wallis) – Support
As Amended March 21, 2023**

Dear Assembly Member Berman:

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 support Assembly Bill 1448 (Wallis), which enhances local enforcement mechanisms against unlicensed cannabis activities.

A commonality amongst local jurisdictions that have sanctioned commercial cannabis activities or restrict such operations is the overwhelming enforcement needs to combat 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 would provide effectual tools at the local level to act against persons that have aided and abetted unlicensed cannabis activity by allowing 1) local jurisdictions to set up penalty processes and issue administrative fines; 2) streamlining appeals and judicial review; and 3) facilitating collection of final penalties through lien mechanisms.

AB 1448 also incentivizes local jurisdictions to use the statutory penalties for unlicensed cannabis activities by revising Business and Professions Code 26038 to authorize the recovery of penalties through local administrative processes. In addition, AB 1448 allows a 50/50 state-local split of the statutory penalties recovered in actions brought by local jurisdictions, as originally enacted by the Legislature in the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA).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 reinvest in illicit cannabis enforcement.

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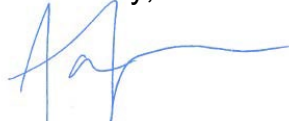
Local jurisdictions are a critical partner to successfully regulate the commercial cannabis marketplace. AB 1448 will bolster safe access to the cannabis market by targeting enforcement against unlawful operators that undermine the legal marketplace and undercut local economies.

For the above reasons, we are pleased to support AB 1448 and urge your “Aye” vote in committee. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Dukett (RCRC) at sdukett@rcrcnet.org, Ada Waelder (CSAC) at awaelder@counties.org, or Elisa Arcidiacono (Cal Cities) earcidiacono@calcities.org.

Sincerely,



SARAH DUKETT
Policy Advocate
RCRC



ADA WAELDER
Legislative Advocate
CSAC



ELISA ARCIDIACONO
Legislative Representative
Cal Cities

cc: The Honorable Greg Wallis, Member of the California State Assembly
Members of the Assembly Business and Professions Committee
Vince Chee, Consultant, Assembly Business and Professions Committee
Bill Lewis, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus