



April 27, 2023

The Honorable Brian Maienschein  
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
California State Assembly  
1020 N Street, Room 104  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1448 (Wallis) – Support  
As Amended April 12, 2023**

Dear Assembly Member Maienschein:

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allows a 50/50 state-local split of the statutory penalties recovered in actions brought by local jurisdictions, as originally enacted by the Legislature in the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA).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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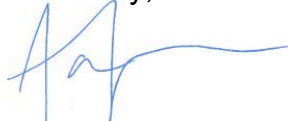
Local jurisdictions are a critical partner to successfully regulate the commercial cannabis marketplace. AB 1448 will bolster safe access to the cannabis market by targeting enforcement against unlawful operators that undermine the legal marketplace and undercut local economies.

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](mailto:sdukett@rcrcnet.org), Ada Waelder (CSAC) at [awaelder@counties.org](mailto:awaelder@counties.org), or Elisa Arcidiacono (Cal Cities) [earcidiacono@calcities.org](mailto: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 Judiciary Committee  
Manuela Boucher, Staff Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus