



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

July 6, 2023

The Honorable Thomas Umberg
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
1021 O Street, Room 3240
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1448 – SPONSOR
As Amended May 3, 2023**

Dear Assembly Member Umberg:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we are pleased to sponsor your Assembly Bill 1448, enhancing local enforcement mechanisms against unlicensed cannabis activities. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties.

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 unlicensed cannabis activity by streamlining code enforcement actions. 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allows a 50/50 state-local split of the statutory penalties recovered in actions brought by local jurisdictions, as originally enacted by the Legislature in the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA).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.

Local jurisdictions are a critical partner to successfully regulate the commercial cannabis marketplace. AB 1448 will bolster safe access to the cannabis market by

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targeting enforcement against unlawful operators that undermine the legal marketplace and undercut local economies.

For these reasons, RCRC is pleased to sponsor your AB 1448. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 447-4806 or sdukett@rcrcnet.org.

Sincerely,



SARAH DUKETT
Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Greg Wallis, Member of the California State Assembly
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Allison Whitt Meredith, Consultant, Senate Committee on Judiciary
Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus