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MedCo- The Healing Community
LD 40

Hello VLA, My name is Dylan Ambrose and I would like to support LD 40. I'm a bud processor in the cannabis industry and I'm supporting LD 40 for the following reasons: Requiring cannabis products to be packaged in opaque containers seems out of touch with modern cannabis policies. Such mandates, often based on outdated perceptions, do not fit well with the trend toward clear and informed regulations for cannabis. Opaque packaging prevents consumers from seeing the products, making it harder for them to make informed choices and distinguish between products. This goes against the principles of responsible and transparent marketing, which are crucial for building a credible and trustworthy cannabis industry. In a time where transparency is valued, mandating opaque packaging appears to be a misguided and counterproductive measure that hinders the industry's journey toward normalization and acceptance. Encouraging cultivation facilities and manufacturing facilities in the cannabis industry to share common areas and hallways makes practical sense and promotes efficiency within the business landscape. Collaboration in shared spaces can lead to streamlined operations, shared resources, and overall cost-effectiveness. Such flexibility not only mirrors common practices in other industries but also reflects a realistic approach to optimizing available space. By allowing these facilities to coexist in shared areas, regulations can accommodate the dynamic needs of the cannabis industry, fostering a collaborative environment and supporting the growth of businesses without unnecessary restrictions. This approach aligns with a business-friendly ethos, fostering innovation and contributing to the economic vitality of the cannabis sector. The insistence on cannabis businesses having to prove compliance with laws from other agencies to OCP seems like an unnecessary and burdensome requirement. OCP's jurisdiction should be limited to matters directly related to cannabis regulation, and compelling businesses to demonstrate compliance with other agencies creates unnecessary overlap in law. This demand not only diverts resources but also blurs the lines of regulatory authority. Let's focus on streamlining cannabis regulations within OCP's purview rather than extending its reach into areas beyond its expertise. Slapping a hefty \$100,000 fine on cannabis businesses is like using a sledgehammer to crack a nut. It's just too much, especially for smaller, local players in the cannabis industry. We're not talking about the big sharks here – these are often family businesses or local entrepreneurs trying to make their mark. Comparing these fines to the penalties in the alcohol industry, they're way out of proportion. Lowering the fine structure is not just fair; it's a necessity to level the playing field and ensure that the punishment fits the offense. Let's dial it down, so businesses can breathe a bit and focus on growing without the constant threat of an astronomical fine hanging over their heads. Having to process the licenses for multiple entities every year, with no changes and resubmitting the exact same items, has shown me firsthand the inefficiencies in the current system. This repetitive process not only wastes time but also adds unnecessary burdens to businesses. Simply verifying that there are no changes to the application could save significant time and resources for both businesses and regulatory agencies. Streamlining the renewal process is essential for reducing administrative burdens and promoting efficiency in the cannabis industry. This approach not only supports business growth but also contributes to a more sustainable and effective regulatory framework. This is why I support LD 40 and why I think you should vote to pass. Thank you. Dylan Ambrose