



We Are The Washington Cannabis Industry

September 23, 2020

Washington CannaBusiness Association
PO Box 9912
Seattle, WA 98109

Attorney General Bob Ferguson
1125 Washington ST SE
PO Box 40100
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Attorney General Bob Ferguson,

On behalf of the legal, regulated and quality-controlled cannabis industry in Washington State, we are deeply disappointed to learn that your office argued in the United States Western District Court that, "no federal constitutional protections exist for a federally illegal marijuana activity." Your position that our state's cannabis industry does not enjoy the same protections as every other lawful Washington business undermines the will of state voters who overwhelmingly approved the creation of a legal marketplace in 2012.

Your stance is a direct threat to the employment security and civil rights of the more than 10,000 Washingtonians who work in our state's regulated cannabis marketplace.

Moreover, your strategy to involve the federal courts and raise the issue of illegality under the federal Controlled Substances Act, destabilizes extensive legislative and regulatory policymaking—including your own efforts and comments to support this industry—to uphold a safe, regulated and quality-controlled marketplace. In Washington, the rigor of our system helps self-defend against federal intervention by modeling a viable industry that keeps products out of the hands of kids and reduces opportunity for the unsafe, untaxed illicit market. We are appalled you would argue that those dealing illegal street drugs have more protections under the Constitution of the United States than those who operate a heavily-regulated, licensed and monitored business.

The regulated cannabis industry is a vibrant sector of Washington State's economy and generates more than \$400 million in tax revenue each year. In the economic instability caused by COVID-19, essential cannabis-driven revenues continue to support state coffers while also achieving a better compliance rate for keeping products out of the hands of minors than retail tobacco or alcohol sales. As a leader of what should be a forward-leaning state, and as a representative of the trailblazers who voted to create a legal marketplace in the first place, your advocacy should be in protection of, and in responsible expansion of, this successful new contributor to our state economy.

It is disappointing to see that defense of this industry and the will of the voters is only exercised when it is convenient, and how quickly your office turned on the industry in taking this position. We ask that you forcefully repudiate this offensive and divisive legal position.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Vicki Christophersen

Executive Director, Washington CannaBusiness Association

Cc:

Governor Jay Inslee

Rick Garza, Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB), Executive Director

Senator Karen Keiser

Senator Curtis King

Representative Strom Peterson

Representative Drew MacEwan