

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy,

As the House and Senate begin to reconcile the differences between the America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology, and Economic Strength (COMPETES) Act and U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (USICA), it is imperative that the final conference committee report of the America COMPETES Act include the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act in its entirety.

Forty-seven states, four U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia have already enacted some level of cannabis reform. As all levels of government continue to advance comprehensive cannabis reforms, addressing the irrational, unfair, and unsafe denial of banking services to state-legal cannabis businesses must be a top priority. The SAFE Banking Act is crucial for small operators, especially those owned and staffed by people of color and those who have already been punished during the War on Drugs. We have repeatedly seen these small businesses be denied access to the banking alternatives available to large operators and independently wealthy operators. This leaves these local businesses and community-based entrepreneurs dependent on cash-only operations that are vulnerable targets for violent crime. Whereas many large operators have the privilege of banking alternatives and costly hired security, small and minority-owned businesses face this threat alone. The results are devastating.

Just last month, three people were killed in one week during robberies targeting cannabis businesses in Washington State. This violence is widespread and ongoing, and it punishes the communities already most vulnerable and targeted in the War on Drugs. Expanding access to banking is a critical element of reform that centers communities disproportionately harmed by punitive drug prohibitions, and this reform cannot wait. It is imperative that the conference committee solve this horrendous problem, which threatens our underserved community members, public safety, and emerging small businesses.

To date, the SAFE Banking Act has passed the U.S. House of Representatives six times. The legislation passed as a standalone bill in with a 321-101 vote on April 19, 2021 and most recently it was included as an amendment to House-passed America COMPETES Act. Every Democratic House Conferee and 10 Republican House Conferees have voted to pass this legislation, and there is more than enough support to pass the SAFE Banking Act as a standalone bill in the Senate if it were to be ever allowed a vote.

Congress has the opportunity and responsibility to address the violence spurred by our regressive banking prohibitions now. Vulnerable communities cannot wait for the perfect solution for Congress to take substantial steps forward. The SAFE Banking Act is a critical piece of the reform our underserved communities and small businesses need. This legislation will make impactful progress in moving towards a fairer industry, especially for business led by lower-income community members and owners of color. As the conference process begins in earnest it is imperative that the final conference committee report include the SAFE Banking Act in its entirety. This is a matter of public safety, equity, and justice, and there is no longer any reason to delay.

Sincerely,



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Brian Babin, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Andy Barr, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Karen Bass, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Ami Bera, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Mike Bost, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Jamaal Bowman, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Kevin Brady, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Vern Buchanan, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Larry Buschon, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Earl "Buddy" Carter, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Joaquin Castro, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Steve Chabot, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Judy Chu, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable James Comer, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Rick Crawford, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Dan Crenshaw, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Sharice Davids, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Danny Davis, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Peter DeFazio, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Suzan DelBene, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Val Demings, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Ted Deutch, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Jeff Duncan, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Veronica Escobar, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Anna Eshoo, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Scott Fitzgerald, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Bill Foster, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Virginia Foxx, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Mike Garcia, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Sylvia Garcia, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Jimmy Gomez, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Mark Green, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Raúl Grijalva, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Michael Guest, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Yvette Herrell, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Chrissy Houlahan, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Sara Jacobs, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Ro Khanna, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Dan Kildee, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Young Kim, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Adam Kinzinger, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Darian LaHood, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Frank Lucas, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Tom Malinowski, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Doris Matsui, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Michael McCaul, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Donald McEachin, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Gregory Meeks, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Carol Miller, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Blake Moore, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Joe Morelle, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Jarrold Nadler, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Richard Neal, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Donald Norcross, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Chris Pappas, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Chellie Pingree, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Mary Gay Scanlon, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Jan Schakowsky, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable David Scott, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Robert "Bobby" Scott, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Adrian Smith, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Darren Soto, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Haley Stevens, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Mark Takano, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Glenn Thompson, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Tom Tiffany, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Dina Titus, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Paul Tonko, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Nydia Velázquez, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Ann Wagner, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Michael Waltz, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Maxine Waters, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Randy Weber, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable John Barrasso, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Sherrod Brown, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Richard Burr, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable John Cornyn, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Mike Crapo, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Chuck Grassley, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Martin Heinrich, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable John Hickenlooper, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Mark Kelly, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Robert Menendez, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Jerry Moran, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Garry Peters, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Richard Portman, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Jim Risch, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Richard Shelby, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable John Tester, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Pat Toomey, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Mark Warner, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Raphael Warnock, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Roger Wicker, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Ron Wyden, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Todd Young, U.S. Senate