Rep. Cathy Tilton, Chair
House Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Rm. 411
Juneau, AK 99801

March 18th, 2015

Rep. Tilton:

We would like to express our appreciation to you and the Community and Regional Affairs committee for your thoughtful approach to issues arising from the passage of Ballot Measure 2. Specifically, we appreciate your willingness to work with us and the Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol to ensure that any of the amendments to AS 17.38 are consistent with the intent of the initiative.

As we have previously expressed on the record, there are a small number of policy issues in HB 75 that we would prefer to be slightly modified. However we recognize that you, the committee and your staff have taken great care to provide reasonable compromises with the express intent to respect the will of Alaska's voters.

As this bill has worked through the process, you and your committee have identified some legitimate issues unique to Alaska's local government structure that were overlooked in drafting the language of Ballot Measure 2. We applaud your desire to make the changes necessary to provide municipalities the flexibility to draft their local ordinances to implement the local control provisions of AS 17.38.

It was certainly our intent to provide Alaska's local governments significant latitude for local control, which is why we included a section in the initiative that expressly provided them that ability.

While we will stop short of formally endorsing the current version of HB 75, we believe you have provided an open and transparent process that actively involved both the municipal stakeholders and the initiative sponsors. HB 75 addresses several important issues and we look forward to continue working with your office and various committees to produce a piece of legislation that addresses the needs of your local governments while remaining consistent with the intent of Ballot Measure 2.

Sincerely,

Rachelle Yeung, Esq.
Legislative Analyst
Marijuana Policy Project