



Members, Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
Via email: <mailto:Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov>

February 11, 2019

Dear Senate Labor & Commerce Committee:

The Alaska Marijuana "Industry Association (AMIA) is the only Statewide Cannabis Industry trade group, think of the CHARR for marijuana. Our mission is to promote and advocate for a vibrant and reasonably regulated Alaska-based marijuana industry. The AMIA serves to strengthen and enhance a network of connected, independent, informed, regionally and community directed Alaska Marijuana organizations.

The AMIA requests that Vivian Stiver not be confirmed to the Marijuana Control Board for the following reasons:

~ The bill to create the MCB (HB123) in 2015 was well backed with public comment, Governor and Legislative intent that said the board would have two industry seats. The reasoning for the industry/public seat was that at the time there were no licensees. However, the intent was clear that as soon as licensees came into existence the Marijuana Board be made to mirror the structure of the alcohol board.

~ If you place a cannabis prohibitionist on the MCB, then we would expect to see a temperance soldier put on the Alcohol Board, or a fish hater on the Board of Fish. Nowhere in the nation will you see a regulatory board with officials who publicly despise the item they are tasked to regulate.

Some facts you may not know:

- Marijuana businesses in Alaska regardless of type put over \$6000 of fees alone into the Treasury annually. That's per business statewide.
- Each one of the licensed businesses in the State contributed to the 2018 GF a total of : \$12,761,802.00 in marijuana tax revenue.
- Legal Marijuana helps shut out the black market and reduce crime.
- Marijuana is the only start-up industry that is wholly owned by Alaskans. Stifling the Alaska Marijuana businesses will only hurt ALASKAN SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS and ALASKAN FAMILIES.

We have reflected on the many public statements made by Ms. Stiver and wanted to offer our findings to this committee. In case there is any doubt that she in fact is a prohibitionist please see the attached document titled "Ms. Stiver vs. The Truth".

Stiver, a former Fairbanks City Council member, has already made clear her strong opposition to the marijuana industry. She actively fought retail marijuana in Fairbanks by heading up a coalition and launching a ballot proposition that would have banned licensed, regulated shops in that town. Alaskans voted more than four years ago to end marijuana prohibition. The appointment of Stiver is a clear message from the Dunleavy administration that Alaska is indeed not open for business.

Direct quoted assertions from Ms. Stiver	Factual Response from Real Sources and Industry Leaders																																																
<p>“When you look at the information that I gave you, you will see just simply by having more access, just simply by having volume of marijuana in a community their poison control went up 153% for children ages 0 to 5. Because you are going to get edibles.”</p>	<p>We can’t source her number but the only data we find which shows an increase of that size is in France where Cannabis is neither legal or regulated. In Colorado this table from Poison Control shows the increase and we will let you do the math to convert to a rate of increase but it certainly isn’t 153%.</p> <p>Table 30. Human marijuana exposures reported to Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center, by age group and marijuana type, 2015-2017</p> <table><tr><th rowspan="2">Age group</th><th rowspan="2">Total reports</th><th colspan="3">Percent of each marijuana type</th></tr><tr><th>Smokeable Marijuana</th><th>Edible Marijuana</th><th>Other Marijuana Cannabidiol</th></tr><tr><td colspan="5">All ages</td></tr><tr><td>2015</td><td>230</td><td>54.8%</td><td>36.5%</td><td>8.3%</td></tr><tr><td>2016</td><td>227</td><td>52.0%</td><td>37.4%</td><td>8.8%</td></tr><tr><td>2017</td><td>222</td><td>38.7%</td><td>45.0%</td><td>14.0%</td></tr><tr><td colspan="5">0 to 8 years old</td></tr><tr><td>2015</td><td>49</td><td>40.8%</td><td>51.0%</td><td>8.2%</td></tr><tr><td>2016</td><td>50</td><td>30.0%</td><td>62.0%</td><td>8.0%</td></tr><tr><td>2017</td><td>64</td><td>23.4%</td><td>65.6%</td><td>10.9%</td></tr></table>	Age group	Total reports	Percent of each marijuana type			Smokeable Marijuana	Edible Marijuana	Other Marijuana Cannabidiol	All ages					2015	230	54.8%	36.5%	8.3%	2016	227	52.0%	37.4%	8.8%	2017	222	38.7%	45.0%	14.0%	0 to 8 years old					2015	49	40.8%	51.0%	8.2%	2016	50	30.0%	62.0%	8.0%	2017	64	23.4%	65.6%	10.9%
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<p>“Colorado opened it up like the old west. And we are fixing to do the very same thing, even more. More so than Colorado.”</p>	<p>Colorado made some mistakes, and Alaska learned from them. Our regulations are incredibly thorough and detailed. For example our serving size limit is half of Colorado’s and the smallest in the nation. As made apparent by her statements Ms. Stiver hasn’t had time to read the robust regulations, as there are many pages and it would certainly take many hours to fully digest and understand.</p>																																																

<p>"Couple of things that I think have been missed along the way, medical marijuana is basically more the cannabinoids (sic) in the marijuana it's not the THC. THC is the one that gets you high so when people say well this is what you know peyote Indians use all the time and years ago that's untrue. Because what they've done is they've made hybrids of the plant, they've made the amount of THC in that plant greater, and that's your recreational amount, recreational marijuana."</p>	<p>Genus Cannabis is one plant with many hybrid variations. Contained within cannabis there are over 12 recognized cannabinoids, 10 of which we test for in the State of Alaska along with 20 recognized Terpenes. There is evidence out there to suggest that all Terpenes and Cannabinoids have varying therapeutic or medicinal effects, both singularly and in combination, especially when interacting with the human endocannabinoid system. The primary difference between medical cannabis and recreational cannabis is how it is regulated and sold/distributed. The products are often the same with the same levels of THC, it is simply the regulatory and tax structures that are different. In Alaska there were never any pharmacies or dispensaries legally licensed to distribute cannabis, so a licensed retail shop is the only place that a permitted medical marijuana cardholder can purchase cannabis legally.</p>
<p>"The definition of commercialization is exploiting for profit, to exploit for profit, such as Christmas, birthdays, greeting cards. So what we're going to do is were going to open up this whole can of worms we think we've got it regulated, we think we've got, we don't."</p>	<p>The actual definition of Commercialization is: <i>the process of introducing a new product or production method into commerce — making it available on the market.</i></p> <p>An unregulated black market perhaps is guilty of exploiting for profit, but the licensed industry in Alaska is filled with good actors who are reputable employers and taxpayers. These truly Alaskan entrepreneurs, in their free time, are philanthropic and caring members of their communities.</p> <p>These business people exemplify the Administration's message that "Alaska is Open For Business"</p>
<p>"It is a drug, there is no way around it. It's not a glass of wine, it's not a shot of Jack Daniels, it's way more powerful than that."</p>	<p>Correct, it is a drug, so is Alcohol. It is a drug that when used responsibly has documented lower public health and safety risks than alcohol. Cannabis unlike alcohol has many known therapeutic benefits and a very low risk of addiction. The societal costs related to cannabis use is microscopic in comparison to alcohol. So to say that it is more powerful is concerning and perhaps Ms. Stiver should be an advocate for alcohol use.</p>

<p>"This plant in nature has .2 to .5 THC in it, today marijuana is a GMO, is a genetically modified plant, it has 17 percent, from .2 , .5 percent, to 17 percent THC value. Purely recreational. The other thing I heard was about the medical value, people were concerned about you know having it for medical purposes, well, the marijuana industry wasn't stupid so what they did is they paired an opportunity medical marijuana with recreational marijuana which has no medicinal value at all."</p>	<p>This statement above all else shows her lack of understanding of the industry she is hoping to regulate.</p> <p>Plants containing .2-.5% THC is what you would knowingly call industrial hemp.</p> <p>Cannabis grown for medicinal or recreational use is ancient and not genetically modified, however it can be fine-tuned to have more or less of certain cannabinoids depending on the product and consumer you are appealing to. Many in the industry are currently hybridizing plants to decrease the THC content as to highlight the other therapeutic cannabinoids, such as CBD which has been shown to help with chronic inflammation and Crohn's Disease.</p> <p>These medical strains are sold in Alaska's recreational market.</p>
<p>"The other thing with medical marijuana, today a pharmacy can apply for a license and dispense medical marijuana right now, they didn't need this law, they could've done it, cause medical marijuana had been legal in the state for a long time."</p>	<p>We believe this statement alone illustrates her lack of understanding of current and past law in Alaska. It had never been possible for a pharmacy or any other regulated provider group to offer cannabis to consumers.</p>
<p>"A lot of people were just unsure about what all had been legalized under this law. I think one of the biggest things they're surprised by are the edibles that can be out there. They are very much likened to national brand foods. Very hard to distinguish for young children...the difference."</p>	<p>First, there are robust and stringent regulations that guide what edibles can look like and who they can appeal to. The board approves each edible allowed onto the market.</p> <p>Second, under Ms. Stivers logic, consumer products such as Tide Pods and Personal care products such as soaps which can be shaped like food should also be prohibited. We believe it remains a parent or guardians' responsibility to keep their children from ingesting dangerous items.</p> <p>* Understanding that accidents happen, it is worth knowing that no human has ever died from accidental cannabis consumption where no other factors /substances was present.</p>

<p>“So your gonna have these possibly smoking areas and then out first responders have to go in there. And of course they’re in a safety sensitive job, they cannot consume marijuana, if they test positive for THC well then they have to justify kinda where it came from, oh yeah I answered that call last week down at the marijuana pot shop on Cushman, one of the three I think that are on Cushman, soon to be four, so then he may or her be put on administrative leave until they can identify yeah did he or did she consume on her personal time. So first responders will be exposed to the THC in the smoke and the marijuana, and that’s not acceptable in their job and their position.”</p>	<p>We would ask how many first responders or law enforcement officers have been disciplined for responding to a house party or similar situation where cannabis was being consumed? Have they declined to take those calls until the air clears, how is this a new issue considering cannabis has been consumed indoors in Alaska since before statehood?</p>
<p>“You have people who are again, are intoxicated, whether its alcohol or marijuana their intoxicated, and as you know there are three strands of marijuana, hemp, sativa and Endicott (sic). Sativa has been known to cause violence in people and their behavior.”</p>	<p>Again, this misguided statement is one that Vivian has used to strike fear in her audience. It is not based in fact and honestly doesn’t make much sense. First: “strands” is not a term used in our industry, but we will try to clarify.</p> <p>Cannabis is a family of plants with two primary classifications — Indica and Sativa. While marijuana can be considered a member of either the Indica or Sativa families, Hemp is a member of the Cannabis Sativa family.</p> <p>We have found no real science or evidence to suggest that any Cannabis is linked to violence, much less a specific type. Cannabis is broadly known to create the opposite effect, in fact the Nixon administration said marijuana was going to turn us all into pacifists.</p> <p>This is just more baseless fear mongering.</p>

An observation from the industry: considering her misinformed rambling, we are troubled to think that her concerns could ever be translated into coherent and effective regulation. It seems she has an education gap that shouldn’t be reconciled on state time. The Marijuana Control Board is not the place to get educated but rather to share fact-based knowledge and expertise.

From: Monique Daigle <moniquedaigle907@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 9:09 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Opposition to Stiver nomination

Dear Senator Reinbold, Chair, Senator Costello, Vice Chair, Senator Bishop, Senator Birch, Senator Gray Jackson -

I am writing today to voice my opposition of Vivian Stiver to the MCB. The citizens and taxpayers of this state voted overwhelmingly to legalize Marijuana with the expectation that our elected leaders would honor our vote and do their part to develop the industry as a means to provide jobs, revenue and healthcare options. Ms Stiver has been and remains a staunch adversary; her nomination to this board by the newly elected Governor is highly concerning and causes this voter to question the motives behind it. I urge you to respect the clear intentions of your constituents and disapprove of her nomination. I am confident that you will continue to keep our best interests at heart as you weigh this decision.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Monique Daigle
North Pole, AK

From: Jay Murray and Nate Allton <emeraldcityak@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 9:58 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: AMCO concern

To Whom it May Concern,

I have deep concerns about Vivian Stiver's nomination to the AMCO board. She has been publicly opposed to marijuana and therefore will not be supportive Alaskan business owners. This can have a serious impact on a thriving new industry to the state which is creating new jobs and bringing in significant tax revenue for the state. Please consider people who actually are knowledgeable about cannabis and have actual business experience in this sector. Reasonable candidates would be Caleb Saunders, Rebecca Rein or Kim Kole. As business owners and Alaskans we urge you to make the right decision to replace Vivian Stiver with a viable candidate.

Thank you for your time,

Jay Murray

From: Bailey Stuart <baileyaleahnicolestuart@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 9:13 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: MCB Industry/Public Seat

Hello, my name is Bailey Stuart and I am the owner and COO of Green Jar cannabis retail in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. I am writing you today to share my perspective in regard to Vivian Stivers potential appointment to the Marijuana Control Board (MCB). I strongly feel the MCB should be a collaboration of different ideas and points of view. I can not support having a known activist against the industry to be appointed to the MCB. This is not conducive to public safety, public health, or to the ability to hold a non-bias opinion of cannabis at this point. Which is exactly what is required for this public/industry seat on the MCB board.

I have lived in Alaska for 22 years, 9 of that I have been a home owner in the Mat-Su Valley. I have owned Green Jar and worked on legalization in the Valley since 2014. We opened Green Jar in 2017 becoming the 1st cannabis retail in the Mat-Su Valley. I am proud to say I have created 23 jobs, and contributed a portion of the \$502,644.48 the Mat-Su borough has received in the first 3 quarters of 2018. I made a promise when I became an employer to my employees, and that was to protect our industry and our jobs. They trusted me with their livelihood's, which is why I am writing to you today. I want all perspectives represented on the board, however, having a known activist who has actively worked against our industry, even as of as recently as May 2018, could hurt our industry and potentially be a public safety & health issue later.

There are many others who see both sides and are a great fit for the position who have applied. Which is why I ask you now to take these points into consideration and ask, "Is someone who has worked so hard to prohibit an industry the best representation in creating regulation for that industry?"

Thank you for the time you have taken to read my opinion. I only want what is best for the public and the industry.

Best regards,

Bailey Stuart
Green Jar COO | Owner
(907) 887-3891

From: Kristen Murray <ksmurray21@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 10:01 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Concerned Alaskan

Hi,

I have serious concerns about Vivian Stiver joining the AMCO board. This decision could set back the progress that Alaska has made with recreational marijuana. She has been publicly opposed to marijuana and therefore will not be supportive Alaskan business owners. This can have a serious impact on a thriving new industry to the state which is creating new jobs and bringing in significant tax revenue for the state. Please consider people who actually are knowledgeable about cannabis and have actual business experience in this sector. Reasonable candidates would be Caleb Saunders, Rebecca Rein or Kim Kole. As business owners and Alaskans we urge you to make the right decision to replace Vivian Stiver with a viable candidate.

Thanks,

Kristen Allton

From: Nathan Allton <nathan.allton@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 10:06 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Vivian Stiver Nomination

To Whom it May Concern,

I became an Alaskan because I wanted to exercise my freedoms and enjoy the vast wilderness up here. Along the way I have started a family and a small cannabis business. I feel that the nomination of Vivian Stiver is threatening everything that I've worked so hard for. Vivian has been publicly opposed to marijuana and therefore will not be supportive Alaskan business owners. This can have a serious impact on a thriving new industry to the state which is creating new jobs and bringing in significant tax revenue for the state. Please consider people who are actually knowledgeable about cannabis and have actual business experience in this sector. Reasonable candidates would be Caleb Saunders, Rebecca Rein or Kim Kole. As business owners and Alaskans we urge you to make the right decision to replace Vivian Stiver with a viable candidate.

Thanks,

Nathan Allton

From: SHEILA PIERSKALLA <dyz.alaska@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 11:37 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: MCB Appointment

Dear Senator Reinbold, Chair Senator Costello, Vice Chair Senator Bishop, Senator Birch, Senator Gray Jackson,

Greetings! I am opposed to the appointment of a marijuana prohibitionist like Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board. Stiver, a former Fairbanks City Council member, has already made clear her strong opposition to the marijuana industry. She actively fought retail marijuana in Fairbanks by heading up a coalition and launching a ballot proposition that would have banned licensed, regulated shops in that town.

As I'm sure you know:

Legal marijuana is good business! Marijuana is considerably safer than alcohol. Each marijuana business puts over \$6000 in fees in the State of Alaska treasury annually.

In 2018, Alaska received nearly 13 million dollars in marijuana tax revenue with no increase in crime.

Legal marijuana helps reduce the black market and is good for Alaska's economy - 13 million dollars good last year! And, that doesn't include all the other businesses that prosper from supporting and servicing the industry.

Marijuana is the only start-up business in Alaska that is wholly owned by Alaskans.

Alaskans voted more than four years ago to end marijuana prohibition. Let's move forward, not backward. Please choose Caleb Saunders or another industry leader as a suitable appointment to the board.

Sincerely,
Sheila Pierskalla
DYZ ALASKA LLC

From: XtraTiff <xtratiff.1970@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 11:48 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Opposition to Stiver nomination

I cannot believe you are even considering allowing this woman to have any amount of power to make decisions regarding the cannabis industry! You must know that appointing her is akin to putting a Catholic priest in charge of Planned Parenthood.

I don't believe that you are actually working in the best interest of Alaska, or Alaskans.

You are being willfully ignorant about this plant, and the numerous benefits it can provide including; a powerful tool to help combat Alaska's drug abuse epidemic, offer patients suffering a virtual plethora of chronic illnesses, and conditions alternative treatments, a badly needed financial resource for Alaska in the form of taxes, business development, jobs creation, and so much more!

Cannabis is a plant that we, humans and other animals, are quite literally made to receive (the largest system in our bodies is our endocannabinoid system). Why are you still so intent on waging war on a plant that has only ever been proven to be beneficial? It's absolutely ridiculous, at this point. All you have to do is Google: countries leading in cannabis research, and you will see for yourselves all the amazing research that's been happening all over the world...except in America. Even the president seems to alright with fully legalizing cannabis.

I doubt anyone will read this, or care about 1 constituents story, but I became disabled in 2012, and started taking prescription opiates for chronic pain. They almost killed me. I never overdosed, or abused them, but they made me more disabled. I developed more health problems due to chronic opioid use, and became almost bedridden. Then in 2016 a friend saw that I was dying, and helped me switch over from opioids, muscle relaxers, and anti anxiety medication to cannabis which literally saved me from the slow, agonizing death big pharma, prescription opiates, were pushing me toward. I am alive today because of cannabis. Cannabis saves lives. I wrote it all because you need to really understand the scope of the lies you have been told about it. Stop believing the "reefer madness" bullshit that you've been told, and research actual scientific facts.

You need to do everything in your power to encourage, and nurture the cannabis industry in Alaska. I was born and raised here in Juneau. I moved back to raise my child because I love Alaska. I want the best for my home, and my neighbors. I hope you do too.

As a registered voter, I ask you to reconsider allowing anyone who is so clearly against seeing the cannabis industry flourish to be involved in making any decisions regarding the cannabis industry.

Sincerely,
Tiffany Hirst

From: julie burkett <bakedalaskandesigns@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 12:34 AM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Vivian Stiver

Dear Senator Reinbold, Chair
Senator Costello, Vice Chair
Senator Bishop
Senator Birch
Senator Gray Jackson,

I want to begin by thanking you all for your service and dedication to the people of Alaska. I am writing you today to express my opposition to Ms. Stiver's appointment to the MCB. We as a state overwhelmingly voted for recreational cannabis. May I suggest Rebecca Rein, Caleb Saunders and Kim Kole as suitable replacements. Constituents from all walks of life who collectively believe cannabis enhances our quality of life voted for this. Ms. Stiver went out of her way to try to misinform, deliver untruths, and make inflammatory statements to dissuade the populous to vote against this. Even as recently as April 2018, she was still supporting prohibition. I am the mother of a ex Trooper, now Anchorage police officer, his belief is the cannabis industry is organized, community oriented and not even in the same league as the alcohol and opiate problem. We need a person on the board who envisions this industry as a made in Alaska, pro economic one , benefiting all of us and without relying on the oil industry. Truly a for the people, owned and grown. Thank you for your time and please reconsider Vivian Stiver's appointment.

From: Elyce Santerre <santerre@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 5:09 AM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Regulatory capture

While it is sadly common for regulatory agencies to be “captured” by their industry, eventually, I’m hearing that Alaska’s marijuana industry doesn’t want to wait for “eventually.” I hear that they are opposing the appointment of Vivian Stiver because she’s not sufficiently pro-marijuana.

Give us all a break and confirm her appointment. She’s fair, and she respects the vote of the people. If she slows down regulatory capture, that’s a good thing, and will give the board needed credibility.

Elyce Santerre, House District 12, Senate F

Sent from my iPhone

From: julie burkett <bakedalaskandesigns@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 4:19 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Re: Vivian Stiver

I was on hold to testify and got bumped off. Here is my statement. Thank you.

Dear Senator Reinbold, Chair
Senator Costello, Vice Chair
Senator Bishop
Senator Birch
Senator Gray Jackson,

I want to begin by thanking you all for your service and dedication to the people of Alaska. I am writing you today to express my opposition to Ms. Stiver's appointment to the MCB. We as a state overwhelmingly voted for recreational cannabis. May I suggest Rebecca Rein, Caleb Saunders and Kim Kole as suitable replacements. Constituents from all walks of life who collectively believe cannabis enhances our quality of life voted for this. Ms. Stiver went out of her way to try to misinform, deliver untruths, and make inflammatory statements to dissuade the populous to vote against this. Even as recently as April 2018, she was still supporting prohibition. While listening to today's hearing while waiting on hold, Ms. Stiver declared a change in her opinion. That is a wonderful thing, I always think people who oppose will find a friend or family member who has benefits and thus a change of heart. Cannabis heals the body and mind. I am the mother of a ex Trooper, now Anchorage police officer, his belief is the cannabis industry is organized, community oriented and not even in the same league as the alcohol and opiate problem. We need a person on the board who envisions this industry as a made in Alaska, pro economic one , benefiting all of us and without relying on the oil industry. Truly a for the people, owned and grown. Thank you for your time and please reconsider Vivian Stiver's appointment. Thank you Julie Jenard Fairbanks

On Tue, Feb 12, 2019, 12:33 AM julie burkett <bakedalaskandesigns@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Senator Reinbold, Chair
Senator Costello, Vice Chair
Senator Bishop
Senator Birch
Senator Gray Jackson,

I want to begin by thanking you all for your service and dedication to the people of Alaska. I am writing you today to express my opposition to Ms. Stiver's appointment to the MCB. We as a state overwhelmingly voted for recreational cannabis. May I suggest Rebecca Rein, Caleb Saunders and Kim Kole as suitable replacements. Constituents from all walks of life who collectively believe cannabis enhances our quality of life voted for this. Ms. Stiver went out of her way to try to misinform, deliver untruths, and make inflammatory statements to dissuade the populous to vote against this. Even as recently as April 2018, she was still supporting prohibition. I am the mother of a ex Trooper, now Anchorage police officer, his belief is the cannabis industry is organized, community oriented and not even in the same league as the alcohol and opiate problem. We need a person on the board who envisions this industry as a made in Alaska, pro economic one , benefiting all of us and without relying on the oil industry. Truly a for the people, owned and grown. Thank you for your time and please reconsider Vivian Stiver's appointment.

From: Nicholas Reaume <darksideofthenick@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 8:19 AM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Please deny Vivian Stiver

To the Members of The Senate Labor and Commerce committee,

My name is Nicholas Reaume and I am a resident of Soldotna, Alaska. I am the general manager of a cannabis cultivation facility on the Kenai Peninsula. I came to this career after 15 years in the construction industry. Due to a back injury while roofing, I had to have surgery in 2015. This left me searching for a new career so that I could continue to provide for my family. As the birth of the Alaska cannabis industry approached, I started working as a laborer helping build what is now a successful Alaskan Business. Our hard work has built a company that employs over a dozen, hard working Alaskans. The Alaska cannabis industry is filled with other like companies providing gainful jobs across the state.

We are only 3 years in and are currently putting almost 13 million dollars annually into the state treasury. With no increase in crime, and over 2000 unemployed Alaskans now working, the cannabis industry fits right in our new Governors plan. We can literally "Grow the Pie" with cannabis. This industry has seen growth like none other since we first struck oil. The cannabis industry provides gainful employment and an important service to Alaskans. As more information is made available to Alaskans, more Alaskans are learning the truth about cannabis.

The purpose of my letter to you today, is to request that you deny the confirmation of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board. We, as a state have built a strong, vibrant industry that is our cannabis market. Vivian Stiver is a known opponent of this industry and has worked to shut it down in her own borough. In order to make a safe industry available to Alaskans, we need folks at the helm that are not opposed to its growth. I am humbly asking you to consider candidates that are at least knowledgeable to the cannabis industry, and not known prohibitionists. I thank you for your time today, and hope that you understand my plea for integrity on the Marijuana Control Board.

Your fellow Alaskan,

Nicholas David Reaume

From: Friendly Budtender <thebatdad12@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 8:28 AM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: AMCO board

The recent removal of Chief Ankerfelt and Brandon Emmett from the Marijuana Control Board is a very clear blow at the sensible regulation of the Cannabis Industry. It is unbelievable that the Governor has hand picked replacements specifically for their prohibitionist perspective and future NO votes. This is an outrage. This board MUST consist of individuals that understand the industry, common practices, and agriculture. Members that want to see a safe but thriving industry. Right now we have 1 of 5 members on the board that are knowledgeable about the industry.

There is no feasible way a prohibitionist can be expected to be on a regulatory board and make practical decisions for that industry. You don't see oil opponents on the Oil board, or anti-fish people on a fish board. It just does not make sense and cannot be supported. Stiver herself was involved in a failed ban on marijuana operations in Fairbanks. It is outrageous that this person has been appointed to the board that regulates Alaska's legal marijuana industry. This prohibitionist perspective does NOT reflect the majority of Alaskans, as can be seen in the multiple failed voters' initiatives to ban marijuana industry statewide. Not a single vote to ban passed in the entire state. In fact, marijuana supporters won by large margins in every vote.

It is very suspicious that a controversial vote just passed (on-site consumption), and 2 out of the 3 who voted YES were removed, just like that. It just so happens that both of the replacements would like to revisit the vote, and obviously vote NO to reverse the careful deliberations of the previous board members. This obviously was intentional, as indicated in an interview with the Fairbanks News Miner... "It's no secret, Ms. Stiver holds a certain skepticism for legal marijuana use – a viewpoint held by many other Alaskans," "The governor believes her appointment will help bring a valuable perspective to the board, particularly as they examine critical issues and regulations." The only perspective Mrs. Stiver brings to the board is one of prohibition.

Although Ankerfelt was new, he did an outstanding job doing his due diligence to educate himself about the industry. He even went as far as to postpone a vote so he could do research on the matter, to be best prepared to make a sensible, educated decision. It is a travesty that he has been removed, seemingly for no other reason than a progressive vote. He has been replaced by Christopher Jaime, an officer working under previous prohibitionist Chairman Peter Mlynarik. He has already indicated a desire to revisit past board decisions and take our progress back in time.

Please consider carefully the future of this new thriving industry, and the millions of dollars spent and generated by Alaskans to make it work. It is wrong what the Dunleavy Administration is doing, and I urge you not to confirm the two new prohibitionist board members, Vivian Stiver and Christopher Jaime. It would be the beginning of the end of the legal industry, and the black market will once again be the law of the land. You will have NO control and receive NO tax revenue when that happens. Licensed marijuana facility owners are our first line of defense against black market crime and underage sales and consumption. We must have a board that supports these licensees while keeping safety measures in place. The new board members do not fit this bill.

Thank you for your careful consideration

From: Taylor Churches <taylorchurches@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 9:06 AM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: No support for Vivian Stiver

To whom this may concern:

Dear

Senator Reinbold, Chair,
Senator Costello, Vice Chair,
Senator Bishop,
Senator Birch,
Senator Gray Jackson,

I, as lifelong Alaskan and business owner, do not support Vivian Stiver being appointed to the marijuana control board at all. She made too strong a presence being anti-cannabis before/as we voted legalization in, and I cannot trust that she has our state's best interest in mind above her own agenda. I'd like to continue to see economic growth in this state from legal cannabis sales and tax, and strongly feel Mrs. Stiver being appointed will be a step back from that.

Thank you for your consideration,
Taylor Churches
907-378-8057

From: Higsters <higster@mosquitonet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 10:11 AM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: No to Vivian Stiver's Confirmation to the Marijuana Control Board

Dear Senator Reinbold, Chair
Senator Costello, Vice Chair
Senator Bishop,
Senator Birch,
Senator Gray Jackson

I, as a resident of Alaska and Fairbanks since 1981, do not support Vivian Stiver being on the Marijuana Control Board.

Thank You
Beverly Higdon

Sent from my iPhone

From: Christopher Farris <christophertoddarris@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 11:18 AM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Vivian Stiver

Dear Senator Reinbold, Chair
Senator Costello, Vice Chair
Senator Bishop,
Senator Birch,
Senator Gray Jackson,

I wanted to contact you with regards to Gov. Dunleavy's appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board. It appears the Dunleavy administration is attempting to undermine the Marijuana Industry by appointing outspoken opponents of the industry to the board that is charged with regulating it. The Marijuana Industry is contributing \$13 million annually in state taxes, hundreds of thousands in taxes to local cities and boroughs and is providing thousands of jobs throughout the state. All this, and there has been NO INCREASE IN CRIME.

The appointment of Vivian Stiver should NOT be confirmed, Dunleavy should not be permitted to put people on the board to regulate an industry that they DO NOT SUPPORT. I understand the importance of having a broad range of representation on these boards but how can you ask someone to provide an unbiased opinion on regulating an industry when they despise the industry that they are charged with regulating? Vivian Stiver has made her opinions on cannabis clear and appointing her to the board will do nothing but hurt this industry that is contributing taxes and jobs throughout the state.

The facts of the matter are that marijuana is here to stay. It has been here in our state for decades and will be for decades to come. It is up to us to decide what that industry looks like and I for one prefer to have safe, legal places to sell and purchase marijuana instead of having illegal black market operations. Please don't allow Dunleavy to push this industry back into the illegal black market.

Best Regards,
Chris Farris

From: Ryan Tunseth <ryan@east-rip.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 11:36 AM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Vivian Stiver

Honorable Chair Reinbold, and respected members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee,

It is clear to me that the intent of the law forming the Marijuana Control Board was to create a seat for industry, and possibly two. But no more than 2. Not more than 2 for any specific interest, no more than 2. But 2... two is ok. The last seat is given to a member of the General Public (OR) A MEMBER OF THE MARIJUANA INDUSTRY. This (INTENT) sounds to me like they: A) Wanted industry well represented, and B) They left room at the table for the consumer, the people! Where is their voice? Where is that majority aspect of the General Public represented? Sadly, they are left out in the cold! Instead, The Governor interprets this INTENT, ...this definition of General Public, as someone who is an anti-marijuana activists? Appointing Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board would be a huge loss of my confidence in the mental acuity of our lawmakers.

Worse, the "CONSUMER" is defined by the Governors appointment as "Crazy". That they "indeed go crazy!"

Crazy, is usurping first responders to intentionally deceive and scare the public. Crazy is color coordinating children's outfits to give strength to ideas that lack the factual basis to stand on their own. Crazy is thinking that everyone who is around second-hand smoke will fail a UA. Crazy is thinking that sativa makes people, well, crazy! Crazy is to then promote yourself as the educated expert! Crazy is meeting privately with a very small group of Non-licensees and then telling the Senate that you have the support of the MJ industry and have reached out to them, when AMIA representation was specifically told could not attend.

What saddens me the most is that there was such a simple solution to this problem. This conflict of interest. All that Ms. Stiver had to do was get out in front of it and apologize for some of the comments that she has made in the past, state that she intends to work with industry to understand us, that she is capable of admitting that her opinions were damaging to the industry and to the men and women working in the industry. That she was capable of retracting some of the nonsense that she had spread. That she would reach out to the Alaska Marijuana Industry Association (AMIA), instead of specifically excluding them.

But, Ideas are hard to kill. Belief is spiritual. And when you are spiritual about something, you can't be talked out of it. You won't budge. And she would not budge. And we all got a glimpse into how she would rule.

The reality is that the CONSUMER is our friends, family, our loved ones. Folks who are dying, our disabled, and those that are dealing with mental illness. It is our Veterans. It's those of us looking for a way out of the grasp of alcohol or pain pills. It is you and me, and every one of you sitting up there who knows someone who has had cannabis impact their life for the positive. Or, those that simply use to relax or recreate.

John F Kennedy once said:

"We choose to go to the moon! We set sail on this new sea because there is new knowledge to be gained, and new rights to be won, and they must be won and used for the progress of all people."

This appointment is out of touch with our industry and the people you were elected to serve.

Please make the obvious choice for all Alaskans!

Thank you!

Ryan Tunseth
President, East Rip
Kenai, Alaska

From: buckeye@alaska.net
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 1:20 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Vivian Stiver- Marijuana Control Board

The recent removal of Chief Ankerfelt and Brandon Emmett from the Marijuana Control Board is a very clear blow at the sensible regulation of the Cannabis Industry. It is unbelievable that the Governor has hand picked replacements specifically for their prohibitionist perspective and future NO votes. This is an outrage. This board MUST consist of individuals that understand the industry, common practices, and agriculture. Members that want to see a safe but thriving industry. Right now we have 1 of 5 members on the board that are knowledgeable about the industry.

There is no feasible way a prohibitionist can be expected to be on a regulatory board and make practical decisions for that industry. You don't see oil opponents on the Oil board, or anti-fish people on a fish board. It just does not make sense and cannot be supported. Stiver herself was involved in a failed ban on marijuana operations in Fairbanks. It is outrageous that this person has been appointed to the board that regulates Alaska's legal marijuana industry. This prohibitionist perspective does NOT reflect the majority of Alaskans, as can be seen in the multiple failed voters' initiatives to ban marijuana industry statewide. Not a single vote to ban passed in the entire state. In fact, marijuana supporters won by large margins in every vote.

It is very suspicious that a controversial vote just passed (on-site consumption), and 2 out of the 3 who voted YES were removed, just like that. It just so happens that both of the replacements would like to revisit the vote, and obviously vote NO to reverse the careful deliberations of the previous board members. This obviously was intentional, as indicated in an interview with the Fairbanks News Miner..."It's no secret, Ms. Stiver holds a certain skepticism for legal marijuana use – a viewpoint held by many other Alaskans," "The governor believes her appointment will help bring a valuable perspective to the board, particularly as they examine critical issues and regulations." The only perspective Mrs. Stiver brings to the board is one of prohibition.

Although Ankerfelt was new, he did an outstanding job doing his due diligence to educate himself about the industry. He even went as far as to postpone a vote so he could do research on the matter, to be best prepared to make a sensible, educated decision. It is a travesty that he has been removed, seemingly for no other reason than a progressive vote. He has been replaced by Christopher Jaime, an officer working under previous prohibitionist Chairman Peter Mlynarik. He has already indicated a desire to revisit past board decisions and take our progress back in time.

Please consider carefully the future of this new thriving industry, and the millions of dollars spent and generated by Alaskans to make it work. It is wrong what the Dunleavy Administration is doing, and I urge you not to confirm the two new prohibitionist board members, Vivian Stiver and Christopher Jaime. It would be the beginning of the end of the legal industry, and the black market will once again be the law of the land. You will have NO control and receive NO tax revenue when that happens. Licensed marijuana facility owners are our first line of defense against black market crime and underage sales and consumption. We must have a board that supports these licensees while keeping safety measures in place. The new board members do not fit this bill.

Doug Anderson-Owner/member Odin's Wagon Kasilof, Alaska 907-394-2274

From: Katie Good <kmgood8908@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 1:53 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Testimony for MCB board discussion - Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

Senators,

This is my testimony. I have already sent this to each of you, but wanted to contribute to this effort. I am sorry that I cannot give my testimony live or on the phone, but it is not a possibility for me at the moment.

I've not been in Alaska long, just since July 2018, but my husband has been here since 2008. He is the head cultivator of a new limited cultivation license and has just harvest their first crop 5 days ago!

I am writing to share my concern for the appointment of Vivian Stivers to the Marijuana Control Board. The appointment of a known prohibitionist to a governing body that already has known "no votes" in this industry is frightening. The statements made by Ms. Stivers are also frightening. She speaks of fairness and ramifications in the industry; of educating those of us involved in how the industry and regulations of the cannabis industry work. She has made comments about looking into past decisions of the board and "what needs to be done" (all of these comments as per her interview with the Daily News Miner).

I can tell you right now that every person I have met in this amazing state who is involved in this industry is in it for the right reasons. They KNOW the regulations and laws like the back of their hands and when in doubt, they call the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Board for guidance. This is our livelihood, the way we will feed our family and the way we will pay for our children's healthcare and happiness. This industry is not lucrative; no one expects to be a millionaire. We simply want to grow plants that provide relief and better quality of life for those who need it. We want to do that legally; taking care to follow to the letter every law, regulation, and suggestion of the government.

Not only do we want to provide for our families and the well being of other folks, but we want to give back to the great state of Alaska. We want to improve education by donating money and supplies to schools. We want to decrease homelessness and hunger by donating money and supplies to shelters and food banks (and maybe even education - who knows how to grow a garden effectively and at a low cost better than those who grow plants for a living?). We want to create jobs, in an industry that is growing and hiring on help (not to mention the money given to the government of Alaska through the selling of handlers cards and taxes through paychecks). We want to stop underage smoking by keeping our doors tightly sealed to those under the legal age of 21. We want to stop the black market sales of harmful products that are grown and made with no regulation or testing, in dirty environments, with no standard of safety or public health.

You have to understand that this agricultural product is heavily regulated. We do not make a move without AMCO or the MCB knowing about it. There's no sneaking around, we aren't peddling our wares to children, we aren't those creeps on the corner looking all sketchy and lowering property values. We are solid Alaskans, taking pride in an industry that can help people, an industry that is purely Alaskan, an industry that is a model for the rest of the United States of America.

I am afraid Ms Stivers will undo all the good that the board has done so far. In my opinion, they have been very fair and scrupulous in their examinations of licenses and proposals. They take a lot of time to review every word on our license applications (We fixed ours several times to meet their standards, which we appreciated - no one wants to get the go ahead only to be shut down). They research thoroughly every proposal that is brought their way. They hand out appropriate and just punishments to those (very, very, very few) who choose to ignore the rules.

If this was alcohol, would there be such an uproar? The black market sales have gone down; I've overheard kids in high school speaking about how they "can't get any weed." With cheaper, higher quality products legally available to consumers of the appropriate age, kids cannot get their hands on it. Why does it seem like this appointment is the first step in shutting down the legal sale of cannabis, turning all legal cultivators, manufacturers, and retailers into criminals? Our industry has been so good for the state of Alaska, and it feels like this appointment is the first step to turn that around; to set us all up for abysmal failure? Not just those of us with licenses, but our employees, the people who can't grow their own (but need it for their aches and pains, for their depression and anxiety, for their seizures or Parkinson's or migraines), and our government (remember, we pay \$800 a pound to the Alaska State government plus taxes pulled from paychecks, gas money to legally transport our goods to legal retailers, electrical bills, water bills, gas bills to grow our plants, license fees, and operating taxes).

I also have to mention that, while a known prohibitionist can offer a valuable viewpoint, we already have that on the MCB. They already have skeptics who question everything. Honestly, that's a good thing! But we NEED an industry member on the board; someone who understands because they live our lives. Someone whose family relies on this industry staying legal and fair. I am primarily concerned with Ms Stivers' history within the legal cannabis industry. As recently as May 2018, she was openly opposing cannabis consumption and legality in Fairbanks. Her "Safe Neighborhood" group is a great idea, but aimed in the wrong direction! Legal cannabis users are safe! They are using a highly regulated, tested product, in their home, not walking around the streets convincing kids to imbibe! Why, in my experience, there is a much bigger problem of that nature in the Alcohol industry.

I do not want my family's livelihood to be done away with. I want my husband home for dinner every night, not up on the slope for weeks at a time, doing a job that crushes his soul. I don't want our future children to barely know their daddy because he is off providing for us (a substitute teacher/work from home/waitress -yes I have 3 jobs- salary cannot support us). I am SO worried about our family's future. This is my husband's dream, and I cannot stand to see it destroyed.

Thank you very much for your time. I truly appreciate it!

Sincerely,
Katie Good

From: althea st martin <althea@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 10:40 AM
To: Sen. Chris Birch; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Lora Reinbold
Subject: Hearing Today on Vivian Stiver Appointment-Supporting

I strongly support Vivian Stiver for the Marijuana Control Board.
I have known Vivian for many years and have a strong respect for her integrity.
She understands that Marijuana use is now legal and she respects the law.
But a board does its best work when it has diversity in its members, not a one sided rubber stamping block or is industry controlled.
Vivian will provide the balance and respect for the law that is good for any committee.
Don't let a smear campaign influence you,
Listen to those who have worked beside Vivian, know her as a friend, respect her and support her appointment.

Althea St Martin
2106 Southern Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99709
althea@gci.net

From: Martin Brown <snowcappedgardens@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 3:59 PM
To: Sen. Lora Reinbold
Subject: FW: Vivian Stiver

Dear Senator Reinbold

I am OPPOSED to the appointment of a prohibitionist like Vivian Stiver.”

Marijuana businesses in Alaska regardless of type (Manufacturing/Retail/Cultivation) each put over \$6000 in fees into the Treasury annually. That’s per business and statewide. ♣ Each one of the licensed businesses in the State combined to contributed to the 2018 total of : \$12,761,802.00 in marijuana tax revenue. ♣ Almost \$13 million annually into the State Treasury and no increase in crime. ♣ Legal Marijuana helps reduce the black market and reduce crime. ♣ Marijuana is the only start-up industry that is wholly owned by Alaskans. Stifling the Alaska Marijuana businesses will only hurt ALASKAN SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS and ALASKAN FAMILIES.

Martin Brown
Snow Capped Gardens LLC
Palmer, Alaska
License# 11921
907-232-8687
Email: snowcappedgardens@outlook.com

From: Paige Perez <paige@jkdbands.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 12:56 PM
Subject: Opposition to AMCO confirmations

Dear Senator,

This letter is to express my opposition to the recent appointments by Governor Dunleavy of Vivian Stiver and Lt. Christopher Jaime to the Marijuana Control Board. My opposition is due to the fact that both of these individuals are known to oppose the legal Alaska marijuana industry. The removals of Chief Jeff Ankerfelt and Brandon Emmett by the Governor seem to be steps backward, and are against the will of the people of our glorious State of Alaska.

Please be remember the following points regarding the fledgling Legal Alaska Marijuana Industry:

1. The legal cannabis industry is the ONLY industry in Alaska that is 100% owned by Alaskans.
2. The legal cannabis industry has created over 450 new jobs in its first years of operation, and we did it during a RECESSION.
3. The legal cannabis industry is the only substantial diversification of Alaska's economy we have experienced in recent history – and again, we did it during a RECESSION.

The legalized Cannabis Industry is an asset to Alaska – and any responsible and logical government should value it accordingly.

In closing, I will simply mention that myself and many other young professionals in Alaska have remained in the state in large part due to employment opportunities in this fledgling field of business that is the legal Alaska cannabis industry. To hinder this community is to hinder not only the current economy in Alaska, but also the present and future of its young workers. It is difficult as it is to keep young people interested in staying in-state – please do not make it even harder.

Please do not confirm the appointments of Vivian Stiver and Lt. Christopher Jaime.

Sincerely,
P.

From: Cameron Kuhle <cameronkuhle@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 11:58 AM
To: Cameron Kuhle
Subject: Gov. Dunleavy's MCB appointments

Dear Senators and Committee Members,

I am a resident of House District 28, Senate District N, and I work in House District 24, Senate District L. I am strongly opposed to the appointments of Vivian Stiver and Christopher Jaime to the Marijuana Control Board. The MCB seats should be filled with people who carry out the laws and regulations approved by the people of Alaska, and who represent a broad sampling of backgrounds that enable them to make sound and prudent choices. Ms. Stiver in particular is an abject opponent of a new industry that now employs many people and brings an increasing amount of tax revenue to the state. The MCB is not a place for utter opposition, it is a place for reasoned execution of the law.

Please do the right thing for the economy and the will of the citizens of Alaska, and do not confirm these appointments, particularly that of Ms. Stiver.

Thank you.

Cameron Kuhle
2700 De Armoun Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99516
907-250-0783

From: Rachel Varela <varelar93@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 11:38 AM
To: Rachel Varela
Subject: Appointment of New MCB Members

Dear Senator:

This letter is to express my opposition to the recent appointments by Governor Dunleavy of Vivian Stiver and Lt. Christopher Jaime to the Marijuana Control Board. My opposition is due to the fact that both of these individuals are known to oppose the legal Alaska marijuana industry. The removals of Chief Jeff Ankerfelt and Brandon Emmett by the Governor seem to be steps backward, and are against the will of the people of our glorious State of Alaska.

Please be remember the following points regarding the fledgling Legal Alaska Marijuana Industry:

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The legalized Cannabis Industry is an asset to Alaska – and any responsible and logical government should value it accordingly.

Please do not confirm the appointments of Vivian Stiver and Lt. Christopher Jaime.

Sincerely,
Rachel Varela