

Professional Summary & Objective

I am seeking to contribute my extensive regulatory, public policy, and industry experience to the Marijuana Control Board.

With a long history in Alaska's public and private sectors, I bring a comprehensive understanding of regulatory oversight, community engagement, and the unique challenges and opportunities of emerging industries. Over the years, I have worked with state government, industry leaders, and community organizations, including in the cannabis sector. My work spans from managing public policy research to being actively involved in advocacy and business development.

With a background in both state government and the cannabis industry, I am well-positioned to offer insights and expertise to help ensure that Alaska's marijuana industry is effectively regulated, balanced with public health & safety, and supportive of long-term community growth. I look forward to working collaboratively with other board members to uphold the board's mission and support Alaska's citizens.

Relevant Experience

Manager and Political Liaison - THC Alaska (Cannabis Cultivation & Manufacturing Business) September 2017 – Present

- Lead day-to-day operations of a licensed cannabis cultivation and manufacturing business.
- Manage relationships with local, state, and federal regulatory bodies to ensure compliance with industry laws.
- Serve as the primary political liaison, advocating for industry interests and keeping stakeholders informed on key legislative developments.
- Implement and oversee company strategies for community engagement, focusing on corporate responsibility and social equity within the cannabis industry.
- Develop business plans that align with industry regulations, while supporting sustainable growth for the business.

Vice President of the Board of Directors – Alaska Marijuana Industry Association (AMIA) September 2017 – Present (Served as President, 2020-2023)

- As President (2020-2023), led strategic direction for AMIA, advocating for a well-regulated and vibrant Alaska-based cannabis industry.
- Work collaboratively with cannabis business owners to address industry-wide issues, organizing collective efforts to tackle challenges that would be difficult for individual businesses to address alone.
- Play an instrumental role in promoting responsible business practices and policies that ensure long-term success and regulatory compliance for Alaska's marijuana industry.

- Foster a strong network of cannabis industry professionals to create a more unified and sustainable business environment.

Vice President of the Board of Directors – Southeast Alaska Food Bank 2021 – Present

- Serve on the board of a critical community organization that provides access to nutritious food for those in need across Southeast Alaska.
- Assist in strategic planning and policy development, ensuring the food bank's operations are effective and impactful.
- Support fundraising efforts, including outreach to community partners and donors to secure resources for the organization's mission.
- Serve as a liaison between the food bank and local businesses, helping to build stronger community connections for the benefit of those in need.

Deputy Legislative Director - Office of Governor Bill Walker January 2015 – July 2016

- Provided legislative strategy and support to the Governor's office, including policy research, bill tracking, and communication with lawmakers.
- Managed relationships with state legislators, helping to advance the Governor's priorities in a highly complex political environment.
- Represented the Governor's office in legislative strategy sessions, communicating positions on key issues, including public safety and economic development.
- Supported a collaborative and bipartisan approach to policy development, working to build consensus on challenging legislative matters.

Special Assistant to the Commissioner - Alaska Department of Revenue January 2009 – December 2014

- Conduct specialized research and data gathering to support the Commissioner's work, including public policy development impacting public health, safety, and business regulations.
- Support the gas team during legislative sessions, coordinating efforts across departments and with consultants.
- Lead the planning and execution of town halls, legislative presentations, and conferences aimed at public engagement.
- Oversee the department's website content, ensuring effective communication of information to the public.
- Manage sensitive APRA requests and procurement for the Commissioner's office, ensuring transparency and confidentiality.

Executive Secretary to the Commissioner / Public Information Officer (PIO) Alaska Department of Revenue
May 2004 – January 2009

- Managed press relations for the department and served as the spokesperson for various high-profile issues, including taxes and public safety.
- Handled communication and logistics around the department's operations, from simple press releases to high-level negotiations in sectors like oil and gas.
- Acted as a liaison between the department and the media, coordinating the release of information related to key regulatory developments.

Executive Secretary - Office of the Governor, State of Alaska November 2004 - May 2005

- Provided administrative support for Governor Frank Murkowski and his Chief of Staff, handling correspondence, scheduling, and research.
- Aided in drafting communications and preparing the Governor for public and media engagements.

Skills & Qualifications

Regulatory Expertise:

In-depth experience in navigating government regulations and industry oversight, including compliance with state laws and the unique challenges of emerging industries.

Public Safety & Health:

Strong understanding of balancing industry development with public health and safety considerations, especially within the cannabis sector.

Leadership & Advocacy:

Proven leadership experience in both the cannabis industry (AMIA) and community service (Southeast Alaska Food Bank), advocating for responsible business practices and effective public policy.

Stakeholder Relations:

Skilled in building and maintaining relationships with government agencies, industry professionals, community organizations, and the public.

Strategic Planning & Policy Development:

Experience in both the public and private sectors in formulating strategies to advance policy objectives and achieve organizational goals.

Communication:

Highly adept in public communication, including media relations, press releases, and stakeholder engagement.

Interest in the Marijuana Control Board

Given my extensive background in regulatory work and leadership in both public policy and the cannabis industry, I am eager to serve on the Marijuana Control Board. I am committed to promoting a balanced, fair, and regulated approach to Alaska's marijuana industry, ensuring that it operates in a way that protects public health and safety while fostering sustainable business growth. I look forward to contributing my expertise to support the Board's mission and help shape the future of cannabis regulation in Alaska.

Professional and Personal References

Available upon request.