

SB 30 Public Testimony
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Thank you for your hard work and effort in implementing the will of the voters with the new initiative. I know many of you are putting extra hours into this and your time is very much appreciated.

I am the father of a growing family here in Juneau, Alaska. I am hoping to build my family business within the cannabis industry and hopefully pass it on to future generations.

The regulation of marijuana is a very technical topic, time consuming, and with regards to other challenges that Alaska faces at this time, my hope is that the will of the voters is upheld and we can build a strong industry for Alaskans.

Just as we did when we joined statehood over 50 years ago in effort to successfully regulate our fishing industry, we can do the same with Marijuana.

Although I am grateful with the efforts to remove marijuana concentrates from the controlled substance act, there are many parts of this bill, including several last minute amendments, that do not comply with the will of the voters.

Id like to suggest that we keep this bill to a minimal set of guidelines for consumers and leave the rest to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board or a Marijuana Control Board, in the event that it a separate Marijuana Control Board is created.

By placing too many regulations on the industry and consumers during this session, such as the unnecessary amendments in SB 30, we will run a very high risk of regulating the industry before it takes place. We must allow the Alcohol Beverage Control Board or a Marijuana Control Board make these choices based on expert opinions and direction.

I would like this bill to be redrafted to omit anything that might touch upon future industry regulations.

Without taking too much of your time, below is a brief outline of just a few, but certainly not all, items for the committee's' consideration:

1. AS17.38.090(c):

-Changes under this section are unconstitutional by means of requiring the tracking of a citizens purchase history. This directly infringes upon personal freedoms as well as puts a burden on the industry.

2. AS17.38.900(18)

-The definition of concentrates violates the Industrial Hemp bill (SB8). There is also a misunderstanding here as to the definition of concentrates. Concentrated cannabis and hemp both have cannabinoids. Also, marijuana concentrates are concentrated to contain not just Cannabinoids, but also terpenes, and other “entourage” chemicals that interact with the body through consumption, some being psychoactive and some being non-psychoactive compounds. The language in this section does not conform to any definitive meaning of what a concentrate is.

3. AS11.71.060(a) and AS11.71.060(a)(2)(A):

-The possession of between 2-3 ounces is too vague and unclear to both consumers and law enforcement. This language will make it very difficult for the average consumer to moderate the amount on hand. We should enforce civil penalties for manufacturing rather than criminal charges in any degree.

Im asking the committee today to please re-examine and consider the end goal of this bill and its implications for future legislation.

Im also asking the committee to step back from anything that touches the industry side of the initiative. We have to capitalize on this opportunity and need everyone from black market growers to lawmakers to be involved. The more we restrict what a regulating board has the power to do, the less chance we have of overhauling the pre-existing black market.

By pulling SB-30 back from the industry side, our prospective regulating boards can then take the testimony and research heard by the legislature and apply it to future lawmaking.

Thank you for your time. I'll be happy to answer any questions that you may have.