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Governor Bill Walker
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February 20, 2015

The Honorable Mike Chenault
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Chenault:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill establishing the Marijuana Control Board and relating to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

The bill would protect public safety and promote effective regulation of the marijuana industry consistent with the people's intent as expressed in AS 17.38 by creating the Marijuana Control Board that includes representatives from the public health and safety sectors, the marijuana industry, and the general public. The board's members would be appointed by the Governor to serve staggered terms of three years; the board would have authority to regulate marijuana cultivation, transportation, production, and sale, as set out in AS 17.38.090. Importantly, the bill would give the Marijuana Control Board the power to enforce its regulations, including the ability to use peace officer powers to enforce the criminally punishable laws and regulations relating to marijuana. And, by providing for a shared administrative and enforcement staff with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, the bill would enable the Marijuana Control Board to benefit from the considerable experience and expertise of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board while realizing significant economies.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Walker".
Bill Walker
Governor

Enclosure