



## Coalition for Responsible Cannabis Legislation

To: Senator Click Bishop

Attn.: Brittany Hutchison

From: Bruce Schulte, CRCL

Date: April 13, 2015

Re: House Bill 75 – CRCL Objections to amendment 1

Dear Senator Bishop;

We wish to express our adamant opposition to proposed amendment 1 to HB75 – a motion to preemptively opt-out the unincorporated boroughs from all legal marijuana businesses.

I would point out that any portion of the state that currently has a market for marijuana probably has a black-market supply industry already, therefore to opt-out of a regulated marijuana industry will only benefit that black-market and do little to change consumption patterns among youth or any other portion of the community.

We do not dispute that the legislature has some legal authority to take this action however, I would suggest that having the legal authority does not necessarily make it an appropriate action to take.

Almost every established village affected by this amendment voted in favor of Ballot Measure 2. Those voters acted on the best information available to them last November and they chose to legalize marijuana in their part of the state.



Now, roughly 6 months later, there is no further information available to the legislature than the voters had last fall. The statewide rulemaking process has not even begun – although most active participants have agreed in principle on the major issues pertaining to potency, labelling, packaging, etc.

I submit that to opt-out any part of the state before the rulemaking process is finalized is premature and would do a tremendous disservice to those constituents who voted in good faith and expect their representatives to respect their will. It is our position that any move to opt-out any community before those rules are completed can only be viewed as a preemptive repeal of this voter initiative.

It would be more appropriate to wait until the statewide rules have been completed and then reconsider this matter against the backdrop of a completed regulatory framework. Since permit applications will not even be accepted until February 2016, there is ample time for such consideration.

Thank you for considering our input on this bill, we appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this effort and look forward to working with you and your committee further.

Respectfully,

***Bruce Schulte, CRCL***

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