



April 26, 2023

Honorable Representative Jesse Sumner
Chair, House Labor & Commerce Committee
House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov

Re: Support for HB 119
An Act relating to marijuana taxes; and providing for an effective date.

Chair Sumner and distinguished members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee:

JKD Brands, LLC is a wholesale ancillary business which provides regulatory-compliant packaging and labeling to the licensees in the Alaska legal marijuana industry. As such, it is our goal to support the marijuana licensees in achieving safe operations in compliance with the state regulations. We currently employ 22 individuals. As an ancillary business we have enjoyed a lucrative business model and environment for the past 8 years. However, as marijuana licenses, our customers fight a constant struggle under the existing marijuana tax policy.

Alaska's marijuana excise tax is inconsistent with the free market principles set forth by the Marijuana Control Board. It hampers business development, cuts profits to near zero, and provides a solid platform for black market marijuana sellers to undercut legitimate businesses. I believe that not only can significantly reducing marijuana taxes make our industry stronger, but it would also serve to undermine the black market. This would result in a much larger percentage of marijuana commerce being represented by tax paying businesses, and not criminal actors.

I strongly urge your support of HB 119. This is a responsible change in tax policy that will benefit all Alaskans and ensure that our homegrown Alaskan industry is positioned to survive and thrive in the years to come.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jim E. Dyer'.

Jim Dyer
Chief Operating Officer
JKD Brands, LLC
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STE 24, PMB 232
Anchorage, AK 99515

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