

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE

February 12, 2019

1:31 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Lora Reinbold, Chair
Senator Mia Costello, Vice Chair
Senator Click Bishop
Senator Chris Birch
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

CONFIRMATION HEARING(S) :

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
Charlie Cross - Nome

- RESCHEDULED TO 2/14/19

Marijuana Control Board
Vivian Stiver - Fairbanks

CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Christopher Jaime - Soldotna

RESCHEDULED TO 2/14/19

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

No previous action to record

WITNESS REGISTER

VIVIAN STIVER, Appointee
Marijuana Control Board
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Marijuana Control Board.

RICK HINKEY, representing himself
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of Vivian Stiver, appointee to the Marijuana Control Board.

CARY CARRIGAN, Executive Director
Alaska Marijuana Industry Association
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

JUANITA ALLIK, Principal
Wonderland Emporium
Chugiak, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

KAREN CLAUTICE, representing herself
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of Vivian Stiver, appointee to the Marijuana Control Board.

CHERYL WASHBURN, representing herself; Staff
Alaskan Blooms
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

TINA SMITH, Chief Operating Officer
Midnight Greenery
Wasilla, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

VANESSA LISTON-CUNNINGHAM, Agent
Matanuska Medicine Woman, LLC
Knik, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

NICHOLAS REAUME, Manager
Greatland Ganja
Soldotna, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

J.R. TUEL, representing himself
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

KAREN LOWRY, Alaskan Blooms
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

BRUCE CAMPBELL, representing himself
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

BRUCE SCHULTE, representing himself
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

MICHELLE CLEAVER, Owner, Weed Dudes
Sitka, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to Vivian Stiver, appointee to the Marijuana Control Board.

RYAN TUNSETH, Owner
East Rip
Kenai, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

PATRICIA PATTERSON, Owner
High Bush Buds
Kenai, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the confirmation of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

DOLLYNDA PHELPS, Co-Owner
Peace Frog Botanicals
Kenai, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

REBECCA REIN, Houston Collective

Houston, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

TYLER SWAN, representing himself

Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

BYRON DALTON, representing himself

Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

SCOTT GREEMAN, representing himself

Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

LYNETTE CLARK, Owner

Mining our Own Business

Fox, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

KIM DUNSHIE-HERNING, representing herself

Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

JOESPH EICKHOLT, Owner

Alaska Beasty Buds

Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

LINDEN ANSON, representing self

Alaskan Blooms

Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

JUDY ELEDGE, representing herself

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of Vivian Stiver, appointee to the Marijuana Control Board.

CHELSEA FOSTER, representing herself
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment
of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

BENJAMEN WILCOX, representing himself
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment
of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

CALEB SAUNDERS, Chief Executive Officer
Green Jar
Wasilla, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment
of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

LEIF ABEL, Vice President
Alaska Marijuana Industry Association
Kasilof, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment
of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

DOUG ANDERSON, Odin's Wagon
Kasilof, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment
of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

NATHAN DAVIS, representing himself
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment
of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

LISA COATES, Owner
Urban Extracts
Kenai, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment
of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

COLE HOLLISTER, Chairman
Alaska Cannabis PAC; Co-Owner
Pakalolo Supply Company
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment
of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

TREVOR HAYNES, Owner
Good Cannabis

Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

KATHRYN STASKON, Owner

Kenai Botanicals

Kenai, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

JIM DYER, JKD Brands LLC

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

DWIGHT HAAK, representing himself

Palmer, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

KERBY COMAN, Owner,

Green Degree, Rosebuds LLC

Wasilla, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

SHANE DEVAUGHN, representing himself

North Pole, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

JOSHUA COBIN, representing himself

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

EDITH VON WELTIN, Manager

Alaska Growth

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

TERRENCE ROBBINS, representing himself

Ketchikan, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of Vivian Stiver, appointee to the Marijuana Control Board.

ELIZABETH HOLM, representing herself

North Pole, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of Vivian Stiver, appointee to the Marijuana Control Board.

AARON RALPH, Owner

Alaska Cannabis Exchange; Board Member
Anchorage Cannabis Business Association
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

CHASE AMADOR, Employee

East Rip
Nikiski, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

KIM KOLE, Owner, Raspberry Roots;
Secretary, Alaska Marijuana Association
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

EMILY NENON, representing herself
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of Vivian Stiver, appointee to the Marijuana Control Board.

LEAH LEVINTON, Co-Owner
Enlighten Alaska
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

ANTHONY OLIVIERI, Principal
Matanuska Medicine Women
Mat-Su Valley, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

LARRY O'KELLEY, representing himself
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

JAMES THORNTON, Owner
Secret Garden Cannabis

Fairview, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

MARGUERITA GILBERTSON, Denali Gold LLC

Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

KATIE GOOD, representing herself

Kenai, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

EVELYN REICH, Owner

Down to Earth Farms

Palmer, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

ED MARTIN, representing himself

Coopers Landing, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

CHASE GRIFFITH, Owner

Permafrost Distributors; President

Kenai Peninsula Alaska Marijuana Industry Association (KPAMIA)

Kenai, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified during the confirmation hearing of the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

MARC THEILLER, Co-Founder

Red Run Cannabis

Kenai, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified during the confirmation hearing for Vivian Stiver's appointment to the Marijuana Control Board.

VICTORIA DAVIS, representing herself

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board.

SHOSHANA KUN, representing herself

Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to Vivian Stiver's confirmation to the Marijuana Control Board.

HILDA LESTRON, representing herself
Seward, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to Vivian Stiver's confirmation to the Marijuana Control Board.

JAMIE LETTERMAN, Owner
ThunderCloud9
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to Vivian Stiver's confirmation to the Marijuana Control Board.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[1:31:40 PM](#)

CHAIR LORA REINBOLD called the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Costello, Bishop, Birch, Gray-Jackson and Chair Reinbold.

^CONFIRMATION HEARING(S):

CONFIRMATION HEARING(S):
Marijuana Control Board

[1:32:28 PM](#)

CHAIR REINBOLD announced that the only order of business would be the confirmation hearing of Vivian Stiver as appointee to the Marijuana Control Board.

[1:34:04 PM](#)

VIVIAN STIVER, Appointee, Marijuana Control Board, stated that she has business and local government experience. She previously served as a city council member and as a legislative aide, so she is familiar with the legislative process. She said she would like to serve and assist the public in navigating governmental agencies in a courteous and understandable manner.

MS. STIVER said she was initially hesitant to apply and delayed her application for a position on the Marijuana Control Board (MCB) because she knew it would be somewhat controversial. However, she reconsidered when she saw that two industry seats were open.

She said she reviewed the fact sheet for the MCB. She discovered that the board would be comprised of two industry seats during the first two years and thereafter, the industry seat would

shift to an "industry or public member." Now that the MCB has successfully put regulations into place, it is time for a "public seat" be filled to inform the public of board actions, she said.

MS. STIVER expressed an interest in education and in process. She stated that she met with some members of the marijuana industry in Anchorage for a full day on February 2, 2019. During this time, she gained a tremendous amount of knowledge about the marijuana industry. She toured businesses in Anchorage, shared her concerns, and clarified some information. She said she was encouraged after meeting with these industry members. One thing that she can bring to the board is to assure people that the public's voice will be heard.

[1:36:26 PM](#)

MS. STIVER stated that the MCB's regulations are set and statutes must be followed. The public member will help assess whether regulations are stifling the industry or if any changes need to be made. She said that the marijuana industry is a legitimate industry in Alaska, one that has a right to operate successfully. However, the industry must be also be responsive to the community, who must have confidence going forward, she said.

[1:37:26 PM](#)

SENATOR COSTELLO said she is encouraged that hundreds of Alaskans are willing to serve on boards and commissions. She said Vivian Stiver's appointment to the board has caused some concerns. She wanted to give her an opportunity to respond to some concerns her constituents and others have expressed. She just heard her say that the marijuana industry is a legitimate industry. She pointed out one e-mail she received said that Ms. Stiver would be unable to fairly carry out the duties of the position because her public belief is that cannabis users are non-functioning members of society.

MS. STIVER answered that statement could not be further from the truth. She agreed she was active in her Fairbanks community and felt that the city council needed to have ordinances in place prior to marijuana businesses operating in the area. She remarked:

We didn't win that. It went down. That was not an attempt to make marijuana illegal. It was not a judgment on anyone who uses any marijuana products. So, that is inaccurate.

She replied that she would not have any problem working within the parameters of the seat and working well for everyone involved. She said that this is about an industry that is growing. It is also about confidence in the community.

1:39:38 PM

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON thanked her for her willingness to serve on the board. She said one thing she truly believes in, no matter whether a person is elected or appointed to a board or commission, is how important it is to keep personal opinions out of the decision-making process. The people of Alaska voted some time ago to legalize marijuana, she said. She asked Ms. Stiver whether she can be impartial when making decisions.

MS. STIVER answered yes; she can be impartial. She characterized it as "cut and dry." The legislature is responsible to pass legislation and the board has statutory authority to adopt regulations. She agreed that conversations will take place during board meetings. She has worked to learn more about the marijuana industry and community. She recommended Kim Kole's marijuana handler's test, which she characterized as amazing. She has taken the test and she did well on it, she said. She stressed that her interest is to learn, to understand, and to work well with everyone.

1:41:01 PM

SENATOR BISHOP thanked her for her testimony. He said that as a small business owner she knows what it takes to run a business. He acknowledged that government can sometimes throw up roadblocks. He is also a businessperson, albeit as kind of a hobby, but he must also follow the state Department of Natural Resources rules and regulations. He remarked that it is tough for businesses to make their payroll. He imagined that Ms. Stiver understands the necessary capital outlay and small business payroll concerns. He asked her, if she is confirmed to serve on the MCB, whether she will be considerate of the capital expenditure made by these businesses. Secondly, he stated that the governor campaigned on public safety, job growth, and for new business in the state. He asked whether she would align with [Governor Dunleavy's] promise to grow Alaska's economy, even if it is for an industry that she has not previously supported.

MS. STIVER answered that she has had an opportunity to tour businesses and she observed professionalism. She has learned about their business procedures. She said she thinks if more people understood that marijuana businesses must account for

their marijuana inventory at the end of each day, they would have more appreciation for the self-regulation the industry has undertaken. She remarked:

I'm all in. I am kind of shocked to say this, but when I see responsible operators; I'm not seeing a problem. As you know, in Fairbanks we did have a problem with the business of "Frozen Buds" and they were shut down. Regulation. It worked. We also had another issue with a cultivator that had an odor. The City Council put in some more ordinances and that is no longer a problem. And so, I'm hearing "crickets." I am not hearing a mass of problems in any way, shape, or form. I have confidence that the folks that are in this industry are serious; they are playing by the rules. I would look to make sure that government doesn't overreach. That is one thing I haven't tolerated in my own businesses and have fought, and I certainly will do the same for this industry.

[1:43:50 PM](#)

SENATOR BIRCH thanked her for her willingness to serve. He said he was opposed to the ballot measure and actively worked against the ballot measure that legalized marijuana. He said, "But, that ship has sailed, if you will. It was publicly supported in the state." He asked where she would see the industry headed, given the amount of capital invested by businesses, the industry's growth, and revenue derived from this industry. He acknowledged he still has reservations. He has grandchildren and he does not wish to see them have alcohol or any drug problems. He further asked what role she views for herself on the MCB in her capacity and with her experience.

MS. STIVER responded that she views the marijuana industry as a growth industry. She has heard concerns expressed from several viewpoints. However, the main purpose of the board is to be fair and not over-regulate businesses, she said. As Senator Birch mentioned, the marijuana industry is legal, the voters have spoken, and she did not believe that will change. She reiterated that she sees a growing and thriving marijuana industry. She pointed out that she observed numerous - mostly older - people, going in and out of the shops she visited. Further, she has friends who obtain relief from medical marijuana. Although more research needs to be done, the potential exists, she said. After observing the passionate and responsible shop owners, she has more confidence that "folks are in the business to do good business."

[1:46:28 PM](#)

SENATOR BIRCH asked for further clarification on the distribution between public and industry seats on the MCB.

MS. STIVER related her understanding that the MCB has two members who represent industry for the first three years, but the second industry seat could be converted and be filled by either an industry or public member. In further response, she stated the board membership includes a representative from public safety, public health, and rural Alaska, and two from the marijuana industry. She clarified that of the two representatives from the marijuana industry, one could be a public member.

[1:47:57 PM](#)

CHAIR REINBOLD opened public testimony on the confirmation of Vivian Stiver as appointee to the Marijuana Control Board. She asked business owners to list the name of the business. She welcomed written testimony e-mailed to senate.labor.and.commerce@akleg.gov.

[1:49:10 PM](#)

RICK HINKEY, representing himself, said he is testifying in support of Vivian Stiver's appointment to the Marijuana Control Board (MCB). He said he supports the legalization and commercialization of cannabis, which is good for the community. The industry has done well, and regulations have been developed with robust dialogue from both sides. However, he has recently seen less robust dialogue at meetings. He has attended many of the MCB meetings and he has been frustrated with the decision-making process, he said. He thinks that this appointment will bring balance to the board. The primary mission of the board is to regulate the industry, not to further the industry. He read the mission statement for the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office, which read as follows:

Enforce alcohol and marijuana commerce laws and provide clear, consistent standards for licensure to protect the public from harm.

MR. HINKEY said he thinks this is a good appointment and will bring balance to the board, that it will make the industry stronger, not weaker.

[1:51:43 PM](#)

CARY CARRIGAN, Executive Director, Alaska Marijuana Industry Association (AMIJ), said that the sincere opinion held by the members of the AMIJ is that Vivian Stiver, a recognized [marijuana] prohibitionist, is unfit to serve as a member of the Marijuana Control Board (MCB). He remarked, "It is impossible for a leopard to change its spots, in my opinion." He pointed out her numerous opposition statements. She was insincere when she says she reached out to the AMIA because she did not do so, he said. In fact, he contacted the group she was affiliated with twice to learn about her positions and was turned back both times. They told him that he was not a "good fit" for their "hand-selected" group.

MR. CARRIGAN said that someone with considerable knowledge about cannabis, Brandon Emmett, is being displaced on the MCB by someone with little or no knowledge about the industry. It is not possible for someone to regulate an industry if the person does not know anything about it. She cannot bring value or help it grow successfully inside the tightly regulated bounds the state has set out for it. The industry has repeatedly proved that its businesses are comprised of good community citizens, who work hard to ensure that the industry functions well. Further, the AMIA works with the Western Regional Cannabis Business Alliance and the American Trade Association for Cannabis and Hemp to help set national standards for education. He remarked that Ms. Stiver's understanding about marijuana appears to be non-existent, so placing her on the MCB appears to be a misguided effort to slow or stifle the marijuana industry. This appointment comes at a time when the industry generates ever-increasing revenue the state needs. He suggested public confidence can be addressed by appointing the most-qualified people to serve on the MCB. In closing, he offered to provide a list of names of well-qualified people who are willing to serve.

[1:54:31 PM](#)

JUANITA ALLIK, Principal, Wonderland Emporium, remarked that Vivian Stiver is a [marijuana] prohibitionist, that she is not well educated on marijuana issues and should not serve on the board.

[1:55:20 PM](#)

KAREN CLAUTICE, representing herself, stated her support for the confirmation of Vivian Stiver to the MCB. She said she knows her to be honest, level-headed, and hard-working. She is willing to listen to all sides. She offered her belief that Vivian Stiver's presence will bring balance and a good process to the board. She read excerpts from an undated article she saw in the Fairbanks

Daily News Miner to illustrate her point that Ms. Stiver is interested in providing public education and process.

[1:56:27 PM](#)

CHERYL WASHBURN, Staff, Alaskan Blooms; representing herself, said, "I'm going with no for Vivian Stiver."

TINA SMITH, Chief Operating Officer, Midnight Greenery, stated her strong opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment. In her words and actions, Ms. Stiver has actively worked against all marijuana businesses and the industry for years. In fact, she initiated a ballot measure that cost the marijuana industry countless hours away from its businesses and tens of thousands of dollars, including costs to local government. She said she recently met with Ms. Stiver, who assured her that she had done extensive research to back up her oppositional claims. However, Ms. Stiver admitted she had not reviewed the regulations until the previous evening. She characterized this as a "red flag" for her since Ms. Stiver took actions to prohibit marijuana businesses in Fairbanks without first obtaining knowledge about the industry or attending any MCB meetings. Instead, she based her actions on emotion. She would only continue to cause mistrust if she serves on the board, she said.

[1:59:08 PM](#)

VANESSA LISTON-CUNNINGHAM, Agent, Matanuska Medicine Woman, LCC, stated she is an investor and mentor of Matanuska Medicine Woman, LLC, and her grandsons operate it. She said it has taken everything her family has to work to legalize marijuana and invest in a legal marijuana business. She said she is testifying in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver. She remarked that Ms. Stiver is [disingenuous]. She said that she shares Mr. Carrigan's viewpoint.

[2:00:44 PM](#)

NICHOLAS REAUME, Manager, Greatland Ganja, stated he is the general manager of a cannabis cultivating facility on the Kenai Peninsula that employs over a dozen Alaskans. His business provides jobs and has generated over \$13 million in revenue to the state in three years. He testified in opposition to Vivian Stiver to the MCB, who is a known [marijuana] prohibitionist who tried to shut down the cannabis industry in the Mat-Su Borough. He advocated for knowledgeable board members who are not opposed to growth in the marijuana industry.

[2:02:53 PM](#)

J.R. TUEL, representing himself, said he works in the industry and strongly opposes the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board. He said that he agrees with Mr. Carrigan's testimony.

[2:03:33 PM](#)

KAREN LOWRY, Alaskan Blooms, said that she strongly objects to the appointment of a [marijuana] prohibitionist to the MCB. She stated that Vivian Stiver's misinformation has been the status quo about cannabis and the industry. She led the effort to ban cannabis in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) and the City of Fairbanks in 2017, which was soundly defeated by a 70 percent voter turnout. She said that Ms. Stiver's newfound beliefs in the marijuana industry are suspect at the very least, if not even borderline criminal. She has always opposed the cannabis industry and has worked to shut it down.

[2:05:25 PM](#)

MS. LOWRY apologized and asked to strike her denigrating comments. After numerous attempts to meet with the group "Safe Neighborhoods," the industry continued to find her unwilling to review statistics, or question members of the marijuana industry to become more informed. In closing, she expressed concern that Ms. Stiver has a moral agenda she seeks to implement via the MCB.

[2:06:03 PM](#)

BRUCE CAMPBELL, representing himself, testified in support of confirmation of Vivian Stiver to the Marijuana Control Board. He offered his belief that she would be an excellent representative for the public seat. He knows Vivian and said she is calm, thoughtful, well-informed, familiar with the regulatory and statutory process, listens, and respects the integrity and opinions of others.

[2:07:23 PM](#)

BRUCE SCHULTE, representing himself, said that in 2014 he was the spokesman for the campaign to regulate marijuana, also known as Ballot Measure 2. In 2015, he was the spokesman for the Coalition of Responsible Cannabis Legislation, and in 2015-2016, he served on the MCB in the seat currently being considered. He said he is adamantly opposed to Ms. Stiver's appointment.

MR. SCHULTE said he appreciates the efforts she has made on behalf of her community. However, she has a well-documented history of actively opposing all cannabis businesses in Fairbanks and leading efforts to ban the industry. He said it

seems as though this administration is determined to "train wreck" this industry by appointing known opponents of the cannabis industry, such as Vivian Stiver, to serve on the board. He reported that this is a \$200 billion industry operated by hundreds of Alaskan entrepreneurs generating \$20-30 million in state and local revenue. At the same time the legal industry has substantially diminished the illegal marijuana "black market." This industry has proven itself worthy of state government support. However, it continues to struggle through clandestine efforts to undermine it. The previous public member was dismissed without explanation in apparent response to a board action the administration did not support. He urged members to oppose Vivian Stiver's confirmation.

[2:10:15 PM](#)

MICHELLE CLEAVER, Owner, Weed Dudes, said her business has eight employees. Last month her business provided \$1.5 million in state revenue. She has been involved in other aspects of the marijuana industry. She expressed concern over the loss of the two board MCB members currently being replaced. She has made a substantial financial investment in her business and has relied on the board to hold the industry together. She related the board composition and urged members to select an industry board member to serve on the board. In closing, she said that Vivian Stiver does not have the right skills to move the board forward.

[2:12:33 PM](#)

RYAN TUNSETH, Owner, East Rip, said it seems clear when the MCB board was established that the intent was to have industry and the public members well represented. He spoke in opposition to Vivian Stiver because she is an anti-industry activist. He offered quotes to illustrate his opposition.

[2:15:08 PM](#)

PATRICIA PATTERSON, Owner, High Bush Buds, said she owns two businesses in the Kenai area. After reviewing Ms. Stiver's public testimony at meetings, she decided that Vivian Stiver is not qualified for this job simply because she does not understand the industry. When she hires her employees at High Bush Buds, they must understand marijuana strains. However, until recently, Ms. Stiver did not make the effort to read regulations, attend MCB meetings, or otherwise educate herself. She suggested that the state should reopen the seat and find qualified people to serve.

[2:17:53 PM](#)

DOLLYNDA PHELPS, Co-Owner, Peace Frog Botanicals said that contrary to her testimony today, Ms. Stiver is a staunch [marijuana] prohibitionist. Her actions speak louder than her words. She has made two had failed attempts to ban marijuana facilities in Fairbanks. She opposed nearly every marijuana license that has come before local government for approval. She has shared misinformation and lacks the necessary education about the cannabis industry.

MS. PHELPS said she would prefer to see another industry member seat on its regulatory board, or the board will be grossly unbalanced. The board currently has one industry seat filled by Mick Miller, but the remaining 80 percent of the board members know little about cannabis or the functionality of the industry. In closing, she urged the board to deny the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the MCB.

[2:19:47 PM](#)

REBECCA REIN, Houston Collective, stated she runs a small firm in the cannabis industry and serves as chair of the City of Houston Planning Commission. As Ms. Stiver stated earlier, she is just now learning about the cannabis industry. Ms. Stiver recently visited a legal cannabis business and took a marijuana handler's course, which means during the years she actively campaigned against the industry she was uninformed. She urged members to oppose the confirmation of Vivian Stiver to the MCB.

[2:21:12 PM](#)

TYLER SWAN, representing himself, testified in opposition to Vivian Stiver serving on the MCB because she is a known prohibitionist of the cannabis industry.

[2:22:02 PM](#)

BYON DALTON, representing himself, said that he works in the industry. He testified in opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB.

[2:22:20 PM](#)

SCOTT GREEMAN, representing himself, testified in opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB. Alaskans voted to legalize marijuana, but Vivian Stiver has always viewed the marijuana industry in a negative way. He pointed out the positives he finds in the marijuana industry, including that family members work together, and it is a growth industry that provides revenue to the state. He suggested that businesses do not want someone with prohibitionist beliefs to sit on their

board. He said he supports having a marijuana industry person serve on the board to help the industry move forward.

[2:24:00 PM](#)

CHAIR REINBOLD provided the committee's website for written testimony: senate.labor.and.commerce@akleg.gov

[2:24:35 PM](#)

LYNETTE CLARK, Owner, Mining Our Own Business, stated that she has a gold mining business. She offered her belief that Vivian Stiver is a bad choice to serve on the MCB. She said, "She is a Trojan horse going on that board." She cannot be impartial, has a history of bias against the marijuana industry, and has actively fought against it.

MS. CLARK said she does not trust Vivian Stiver to serve on the board and she absolutely opposes her representation for the legal marijuana industry. Marijuana businesses contribute millions in tax dollars of general fund revenue each year. In closing, she reiterated that she is adamantly opposed to her confirmation. She suggested a more qualified applicant could be found.

[2:28:20 PM](#)

KIM DUNSHIE-HERNING, representing herself, said she strongly opposes the confirmation of Vivian Stiver to the MCB. She acknowledged previous speakers already covered many of the reasons to oppose her. Basically, she is a known prohibitionist of the industry, she said. She said that people can pretend they will be fair and open minded, but at the same time still have an agenda. She said she views Vivian Stiver as doing this as she does not understand cannabis nor has ever wanted to learn about the industry. She related her understanding that what Vivian Stiver believes about the industry is false and she has spread misinformation. She said that more qualified people could be selected to serve on the MCB, and she hopes that Vivian Stiver will not be confirmed.

[2:30:38 PM](#)

JOESPH EICKHOLT, Owner, Alaska Beasty Buds, said he is testifying in opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the MCB. He said that Vivian Stiver is a known [marijuana] prohibitionist and her stance has always been "anti-marijuana." She would not be good for the industry since she only represents the minority of the public that chose not to legalize marijuana.

[2:31:35 PM](#)

LINDEN ANSON, Owner, Alaskan Blooms, stated that he is testifying in opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment. She is a marijuana prohibitionist who has only recently informed herself about the industry. Her actions speak louder than her words and she is not the right fit for the industry. He expressed concern that currently only one industry person serves on the board. He expressed further concern that she would hinder growth of the marijuana business, one that provides substantial tax revenue to the state. He said, "I would just like my voice heard. Hey, this is our industry; this is our life. Please don't put somebody in there that's going to ruin this for me." His life savings are tied up in his business, he said.

[2:33:56 PM](#)

JUDY ELEDGE, representing herself, said that she fully supports Vivian Stiver to serve on the MCB. Although Alaska voted to legalize marijuana, many Alaskans did not, and these people have grave concerns about the law and its effect on Alaskans. She would like the board to be balanced to ensure fairness in the decision-making process. She emphasized her belief that someone who opposes the industry can still provide a valuable perspective. She said that she has known Vivian Stiver for many years and has served in different organizations with her. She said Vivian Stiver is a fair, well-educated, and rational person. She offered her belief that she would represent the MCB in a professional manner.

[2:35:47 PM](#)

CHELSEA FOSTER, representing herself, said she previously spoke with Vivian Stiver about her appointment. She spread misinformation during her failed attempt to oppose the marijuana industry and has failed to learn about the industry. The marijuana industry wants someone with broad knowledge of cannabis to serve on the MCB, not someone who is a naïve cannabis prohibitionist. She urged members not to confirm Vivian Stiver. She also recommended several qualified people to serve on the MCB, including Keith Griffith, Kenai, Tina Smith, Wasilla, and Kim Kole, Anchorage.

[2:37:36 PM](#)

BENJAMEN WILCOX, representing himself, said that he and his partner co-own two Juneau cannabis businesses with a statewide distribution. He said, "No one is happy with this. No one believes this is a change of heart." He asked whether their constituents would believe them if they completely reversed their lifelong beliefs. He said that a vote for Vivian Stiver is a vote to bolster and reinvigorate the marijuana black market.

It would cause stagnation in a rapidly-growing wholly-Alaskan owned industry. It would also adversely impact Alaska's tax revenue, result in hundreds or thousands of industry job losses, and limit consumer access to safe and tested cannabis products. He also said that a vote for Vivian Stiver represents a vote against the hard work that businesses and the legislature have put in to help establish the workable and prosperous marijuana industry.

[2:39:21 PM](#)

At-ease.

[2:39:31 PM](#)

CHAIR REINBOLD reconvened the meeting.

[2:39:33 PM](#)

CALEB SAUNDERS, Chief Executive Officer, Green Jar, stated that he is one of the owners of a cannabis business, Green Jar. He said he opposes Vivian Stiver's confirmation to the MCB. He said that she has been vying for the industry/public seat. However, she does not represent a good portion of the public that supported legalization of marijuana. He said that Vivian Stiver has publicly stated that problems have not stemmed from the marijuana industry, yet she seems to imply that the work done thus far is biased and forgot to include the public. This could not be farther from the truth, he said.

He has fully participated in the industry, first as a member of the public and later as a licensee. He has attended or participated telephonically at every MCB meeting. He stated that public safety and public health has been considered throughout the regulatory process. His business is comprised of owners, employees, and customers. In his view, Vivian Stiver does not represent his customers or the large portion of the public. Instead, she represents industry prohibitionists, he said.

[2:41:48 PM](#)

LEIF ABEL, Vice President, Alaska Marijuana Industry Association; Founder, Greatland Ganja, stated that he is opposed to Vivian Stiver's appointment to the industry/public seat on the MCB. He said it could kill the revenue stream for state government. He has earned the Department of Revenue (DOR) over \$12 million in 2018 alone, he said. He stressed the importance of diversifying Alaska's economy and jobs. He said, "Vivian Stiver is an abject prohibitionist. She has no good role or genuine reason to be on the MCB."

He characterized the industry as a compliant and vibrant one. According to Credit Union 1, the industry produced over \$200 million for the state's economy last year. He reported that the industry provides over 700 jobs in Kenai, and his Kasilof business provides jobs for 18 employees. He said, "These are families we employ, families I'm responsible for." He highlighted that his employees have worker's compensation insurance and work in clean, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) approved, fire-marshal permitted facilities.

MR. ABEL asked members to protect local jobs and the families who are employed by the industry by denying Governor Dunleavy's appointment of Vivian Stiver to the MCB, that she lacks knowledge about the cannabis industry, and she should not serve on a quasi-judicial board that will make important decisions. Instead, an industry person should be appointed. He cautioned that a prohibitionist's actions against the marijuana industry could bolster black market sales, increase crime, and endanger public safety. He pointed out that legalized industry removes minors' access to marijuana.

[2:44:24 PM](#)

DOUG ANDERSON, Odin's Wagon, said he is one of four members of Odin's Wagon in Kasilof. This business has a standard cultivation license from the state. All of his members do not support Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB, he said. Based on her past behavior, she would have a negative effect on the development of the responsible marijuana industry in Alaska. He offered his belief that she cannot be impartial. He heard Vivian Stiver mention that marijuana businesses are thriving; however, from his perspective their existence is precarious at best and many marijuana businesses have gone out of business. He expressed concern that her presence could upset the balance needed to adopt safe and successful regulation in Alaska.

[2:45:49 PM](#)

NATHAN DAVIS, representing himself, stated he is with Green Thumb Garden Center, a lighting supply. He said that he strongly opposes the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the MCB. He has personally interacted with her, he said. He noted that she was the person at the front of the line trying to ban cannabis throughout Fairbanks. He expressed concern that she may now regulate the industry. He urged members to oppose the appointment.

[2:46:44 PM](#)

LISA COATES, Owner, Urban Extracts, stated her business is a marijuana products manufacturer in Kenai. She said she is opposed to Ms. Stiver being on the MCB because she cannot be unbiased. She expressed concern that while Vivian Stiver protested against the industry, she has only recently begun to learn about the industry. After she was appointed by the governor, she changed her views, stating she is open to the industry. She indicated it is time for a member of the public to serve. If so, a cannabis consumer should serve instead, she said. She reported that she reviewed other board memberships for public participation and discovered that all members of the Board of Game are involved in the industry in some manner.

She said, "It's absurd. Vivian Stiver touts today how she is unbiased, but she was so opposed to it, and her past actions against the industry should weigh heavier than her talk. She's just not wired that way and plain and simply not fit for a seat at the table." The world is changing and becoming more open to cannabis, she said. Alaska can recognize this and grow its economy, or it can stifle the industry.

MS. COATES related that until now, she has always been an employee, but she retired from her job and became an owner. She has invested a lot of money in this business and it is scary to think that someone like Vivian Stiver could completely collapse her dream.

[2:49:31 PM](#)

COLE HOLLISTER, Chairman, Alaska Cannabis PAC; Co-Owner, Pakalolo Supply Company, stated that he has a cultivation facility in Fairbanks with several retail stores. He currently employs 30 people. He strongly opposes Vivian Stiver serving on the MCB, he said. He has been involved in the industry from the beginning and was a candidate for the MCB in its early stages. He said that Lynette Clark stated it best when she referred to Vivian Stiver as a Trojan horse. He said that as a senator, Governor Dunleavy was one of the industry's strongest opponents. He further stated that by removing Brandon Emmett, one of the biggest voices from the board, and appointing Vivian Stiver speaks to his intentions against the industry. He urged members not to support or confirm Vivian Stiver because she is not qualified to serve on the MCB.

[2:51:37 PM](#)

TREVOR HAYNES, Owner, Good Cannabis, stated his opposition to the appointment of Vivian Stiver to the MCB. He said that he supports a fair and balanced MCB. However, Vivian Stiver is not

simply a contrarian voice; she has historically been one of the worst enemies of the cannabis industry in Alaska. The industry is in a fledgling state and he is afraid she will do a lot of damage if she serves on the board. He characterized the MCB's work as important, that the industry needs strong, effective regulations to benefit the industry and protect the public health and safety. He said he did not think she would be an honest broker of cannabis regulations. He favors board members who are fair and reasonable, with knowledge about the industry. She cannot bring a balanced approach to the board, he said. He urged members to vote against her nomination.

[2:53:26 PM](#)

KATHRYN STASKON, Owner, Peninsula Botanicals, testified in opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB. She agreed with many testifiers. She offered her belief that Vivian Stiver's appointment would represent regression and not progress. The industry is thriving, supporting Alaskans, communities, and revenue to help the state. She expressed concern that if Vivian Stiver serves on the board, it would only hurt the industry and cannabis businesses.

[2:54:34 PM](#)

JIM DYER, Co-Owner, JKD Brands LLC, stated that he and his wife own a business that specializes in labeling cannabis to ensure regulatory compliance in Alaska. He expressed his opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB. She is a known cannabis prohibitionist, who strongly opposes the legal marijuana industry, he said. He expressed concern that removal of Jeff Ankerfelt and Brandon Emmett by the governor represent backward steps, against the will of the people of Alaska. He said that the industry has created about 1,000 jobs statewide. It is the only industry that is 100-percent owned by Alaskans. The industry has helped diversify the economy and legalized marijuana is an asset to the state. He related that he, his wife, and daughter are gainfully employed in a successful ancillary business that employs 17 people. He urged members not to confirm Vivian Stiver and offered his belief that Caleb Saunders would be a good choice for someone to serve on the MCB.

[2:57:19 PM](#)

DWIGHT HAAK, representing himself, stated his opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB. He related a lengthy, personal scenario describing how his business and credit were destroyed. Although the court later vindicated him, the damage was already done. He said he knows what prohibitionists like Ms. Stiver can do and she should not serve on the board. In closing

he said he felt it would be unethical for her to serve on the MCB.

[2:59:46 PM](#)

KERBY COMAN, Owner, Green Degree, Rosebuds LLC, referred to AS 17.38.010 (b), which read as follows:

(b) In the interest of the health and public safety of our citizenry, the people of the state of Alaska further find and declare that the production and sale of marijuana should be regulated so that

(1) individuals will have to show proof of age before purchasing marijuana;

(2) legitimate, taxpaying business people, and not criminal actors, will conduct sales of marijuana; and

(3) marijuana sold by regulated businesses will be labeled and subject to additional regulations to ensure that consumers are informed and protected.

MR. COMAN interpreted this language to mean that this board's purpose is to inform and protect the public. He paraphrased Vivian Stiver's statement that the benefits derived from medical marijuana are "good." However, marijuana businesses are strictly prohibited from purporting that marijuana has any medical benefits, he said. He said this supports her lack of knowledge about the industry. He stated his strong opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB, that she is ill informed and unfit to serve on the board.

[3:01:56 PM](#)

SHANE DEVAUGHN, representing himself, testified in opposition to Vivian Stiver. He said he finds that she is just now beginning to educate herself on marijuana is unacceptable. He said that she will only hurt the industry and is a bad choice to serve on the MCB.

[3:02:45 PM](#)

JOSHUA COBIN, representing himself, stated that he works for Farmer Jacks, [a marijuana cultivation facility]. He is a 20-year veteran of the cannabis industry, and admitted he previously was involved in black market activities. He said he initially did not support legalization of marijuana. However, he became licensed. He now considers that his license is a pact

with the state, which includes operating under his license, paying state taxes, and following the rules. He said that appointing a [cannabis] prohibitionist to a board that oversees the industry is not part of the deal. He urged members not to support Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB.

[3:03:41 PM](#)

EDITH VON WELTIN, Manager, Alaska Growth, a standard marijuana cultivation facility, stated her strong opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB. She said she felt embarrassed that anyone with as little education about the industry would be nominated to serve on the board. She wondered if it is indicative of the governor's intent to close down the industry. In closing, she reiterated that she is opposed to the appointment.

[3:04:55 PM](#)

TERRENCE ROBBINS, representing himself, stated his support for Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB. He said he formerly served as director of the Drug-Fee Communities Support Project program. One of its goals is to reduce youth marijuana use so he has closely followed the MCB and its regulatory process. He said he finds it upsetting to watch a board that is effectively controlled by the industry, dismiss public safety and health issues and best practices, for example, to help reduce youth marijuana use. Under the marijuana industry-controlled MCB, by regulation, the industry allowed unlimited advertising, substandard testing, and on-site consumption in public places. Although the regulations prohibited the sale of familiar food, drink or candy, the approved list included these items. Concentrates used in e-cigarettes and cigarette JUULs are difficult for parents, teachers, and law enforcement to detect, but the JUULs can easily be converted to marijuana devices. He also related a few marijuana health risks. He said the MCB is not a Board of Directors for marijuana companies. It is supposed to protect the public and he said he believes that Vivian Stiver can help.

[3:07:12 PM](#)

ELIZABETH HOLM, representing herself, expressed concern that testifiers are accusing Vivian Stiver of not being well educated on the marijuana industry. She said she finds these testifiers' tactics to be a form of intimidation. She said marijuana activists sometimes mob the Fairbanks local government meetings and mock people. She suggested people should listen to the Fairbanks North Star Borough audio for proof. She offered her personal experiences with some activists who gave her business

poor ratings. She said that some people are afraid to contact the MCB with their concerns due to fear. She said that Vivian Stiver has been educated on marijuana from the start. She surmised that Vivian Stiver has researched Colorado's and Washington's experience with legalized marijuana and that likely influenced her anti-marijuana, prohibitionist viewpoint. The state needs a well-rounded Alaskan to serve on the board who understands the pros and cons of the industry, she said. In closing, she urged members to support Vivian Stiver's confirmation.

3:10:09 PM

AARON RALPH, Owner, Alaska Cannabis Exchange; Board Member, Anchorage Cannabis Business Association, stated the [association's] firm disapproval of the confirmation of Vivian Stiver to the MCB.

3:10:46 PM

CHASE AMADOR, Employee, East Rip, stated his opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB.

3:11:25 PM

KIM KOLE, Owner, Raspberry Roots; Secretary, Alaska Marijuana Association, emphasized the importance of industry participation on the MCB by someone with firsthand knowledge to ensure that the regulations are common-sense and practical. She argued against putting someone on the MCB who only recently learned the barest minimum about the industry. While she agreed the marijuana handler's course is useful to provide knowledge, it does not provide in-depth knowledge for someone who will create and adjust regulations that can affect the long-term strength of the industry. The board must be able to anticipate unintended consequence to the industry, she said.

MS. KOLE said that one way to take down an industry that has survived three separate public votes is to try to dismantle it from the inside. Actions speak louder than words, she said. She pointed out that Vivian Stiver led two ballot measures in Fairbanks. She has made ignorant comments about the benefits, regulations, and sales of cannabis. The industry/public seat was created because at its inception, no one could qualify for the industry seat and not because the seat was meant to segue to a public seat as Vivian Stiver implied. The Alcohol Control Board has two industry members and the MCB board deserves the same representation, she said. She stated her opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB.

[3:14:52 PM](#)

EMILY NENON, representing herself, testified in support of Vivian Stiver. She asked to focus her testimony on process and not policy outcomes. She referred to the MCB's mission statement, which is to enforce marijuana commerce laws, and provide clear consistent standards for licensure to protect the public from harm. She has attended many MCB meetings in the past few years and has seen a lack of transparency and clear and consistent standards in the process. She offered her belief that Vivian Stiver's skills are exactly what the MCB needs, that her public process experiences will be a tremendous asset to the board. She stated that Vivian Stiver has been attacked for exercising the local option in the ballot initiative, which was written by industry proponents. Now it is time for the public's interest to be represented, she said.

[3:16:27 PM](#)

LEAH LEVINTON, Co-Owner, Enlighten Alaska, stated her strong opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB. She echoed the testimony of many who testified in opposition to her appointment. She said the majority of the public supported legalization of marijuana. She encouraged members to appoint an unbiased person or someone with industry expertise to serve on the board.

[3:17:31 PM](#)

ANTHONY OLIVIERI, Owner, Matanuska Medicine Women, stated opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB since she lacks the necessary qualifications to serve on the board. He said she would not be a good fit for the marijuana industry.

[3:18:20 PM](#)

LARRY O'KELLEY, representing himself, stated his vehement opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB. He said it is disrespectful to the voters who overwhelmingly support the cannabis industry, including onsite consumption.

[3:19:15 PM](#)

JAMES THORNTON, Owner, Secret Garden Cannabis, said he also serves on the Executive Board for the Fairview Community Council. He asked to testify in opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB. He said that Alaskans overwhelmingly chose to legalize cannabis in 2014 and despite prohibitionists and their campaigns have kept it legal. The marijuana industry deserves a well-balanced and educated board. He urged members to strongly reconsider this appointment.

[3:20:35 PM](#)

MARGUERITA GILBERTSON, Owner, Denali Gold LLC, testified that she owns a standard marijuana cultivation company. She stated her opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB. She is not qualified to serve on the board and does not represent the industry, she said.

[3:21:21 PM](#)

KATIE GOOD, representing herself, said her husband is the head cultivator for Greatful Bud, LLC. She stated her opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB.

[3:22:19 PM](#)

EVELYN REICH, Owner, Down to Earth Farms, stated her opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB. She said she agrees with others who testified against the appointment.

[3:22:53 PM](#)

ED MARTIN, representing himself, stated that other prohibitionists have served on the board. He argued against appointing anyone who opposes the legalization of marijuana to serve on the board since it makes it difficult to regulate the industry. The marijuana industry supports government, he said. He expressed concern over the vetting process and any violation of his civil liberties.

[3:24:43 PM](#)

CHASE GRIFFITH, Co-Owner, Permafrost Distributors; President, Kenai Peninsula Alaska Marijuana Industry Association (KPAMIA). He said that he is very involved in the cannabis community. He spoke in opposition to anyone who is opposed to cannabis serving on the board. He is doing everything possible to create transparency between the market, the industry, and the state, he said.

[3:25:49 PM](#)

MARK THEILLER, Co-Founder, Red Run Cannabis, said that he is a legally licensed marijuana retail and cultivator. He said he hoped to obtain a third manufacturer's license. He related that others have covered the industry's statistics and viewpoint. He related his personal viewpoint, that he employs ten people, eight of whom have been with him since the beginning. He said that he is an entrepreneur and small business owner who works to expand the marijuana industry's growth. He said his employees earn a livable wage and depend on this industry's success. This is not an ideological competition but is something that affects "real lives and real families." He has previously served on the

Marijuana Task Force with another prohibitionist. He said that person did not "round out" the discussion but created lag and dysfunction that resulted in wasted time and money. He asked members to appoint someone who is critical, capable, and experienced to some degree. He said that Vivian Stiver clearly does not meet the mark.

[3:28:24 PM](#)

CHAIR REINBOLD asked for written testimony.

[3:28:40 PM](#)

VICTORIA DAVIS, representing herself, said that she is a cannabis advocate. She testified in opposition to Vivian Stiver being appointed to the MCB. She has rallied others to vote against cannabis and is not informed about the cannabis industry. She expressed concern that Vivian Stiver is a business owner who has been willing to put other people's businesses at risk, based solely on emotion. It is important to have board members who understand the cannabis industry, she said.

[3:30:29 PM](#)

SHOSHANA KUN, representing herself, stated her opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB. She stated that the mission of the board is to protect the public from harm. She said she has attended the MCB's meetings and in her view, the board has been careful to listen to the public's concern. She expressed concern that Vivian Stiver's bias against the industry could have a negative impact on the marijuana industry. She related that the marijuana tax revenue in Fairbanks raises \$800,000, which helps provide emergency services to the community.

[3:32:08 PM](#)

HILDA LESTRON, representing herself, said she strongly opposes any marijuana prohibitionist, such as Vivian Stiver, to serve on the MCB. She urged members not to confirm her appointment to the board.

[3:32:57 PM](#)

JAMIE LETTERMAN, Owner, ThunderCloud9, stated she owns two cannabis businesses. She expressed her opposition to Vivian Stiver's appointment to the MCB. She has served on numerous boards over the years. Although it is good to have a devil's advocate serve on a board, it is also good to have someone who believes wholeheartedly in the board's mission.

[3:33:33 PM](#)

CHAIR REINBOLD, after first determining no one wished to testify, closed public testimony on the confirmation hearing for Vivian Stiver, appointee to the Marijuana Control Board.

She said that any written testimony that has been received at senate.labor.and.commerce@ak.leg will be incorporated into the record. She asked Ms. Stiver whether she had any closing comments.

[3:34:15 PM](#)

MS. STIVER made the following closing remarks:

We have heard some things and some terms used consistently and throughout this hearing today, which I believe are words that tend to incite a lot of fear.

I am not a prohibitionist. I absolutely did have a position. I expected our city and borough to be ready for the industry and they were not. I also respect the fact that people do distrust me because they had financial interests. They had money laid out and I do understand that.

Education: I was well on top of this when it started. I studied Washington's law, Colorado's law. I looked at products in Colorado. I studied the impacts in Colorado. And yes, things have changed over time, but during that initiative I used current information backed up with sources. I never show up without my sources and copies for members of councils or assemblies. So, I want to thank you for your time and patience and thank everyone for putting in their thoughts. I know this is difficult, but I am confident that I will work well with everyone, all the stakeholders and the community, to make sure there's success for everyone.

[3:35:42 PM](#)

CHAIR REINBOLD stated that all written testimony to date will be included as part of the official record.

[3:36:13 PM](#)

CHAIR REINBOLD stated that in accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee reviewed the following and recommends the appointments be forwarded to a joint session for consideration:

Marijuana Control Board
Vivian Stiver - Fairbanks

CHAIR REINBOLD reminded members that signing the reports regarding appointments to boards and commissions in no way reflects individual members' approval or disapproval of the appointees; the nominations are merely forwarded to the full legislature for confirmation or rejection.

[3:36:42 PM](#)

CHAIR REINBOLD gave upcoming committee announcements.

[3:37:32 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Reinbold adjourned the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting at 3:37 p.m.