[Insert Letterhead]

Month Day, 2023

The Honorable Greg Wallis

California State Assembly

1021 O Street, Suite 4330

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1448 (Wallis) – Cannabis: Enforcement by Local Jurisdictions - SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Wallis:

On behalf of [Organization], we write to express our strong support for Assembly Bill 1448, which would enhance local enforcement mechanisms against unlicensed cannabis activities.

[Organization statement about the challenges of providing effective illicit cannabis enforcement] A commonality amongst local jurisdictions that have sanctioned commercial cannabis activities or restrict such operations is the overwhelming enforcement needs to combat unlicensed cannabis activities. Local law enforcement agencies and code enforcement struggle to effectively deter illicit cannabis operators who sidestep regulations and undermine the health and safety of residents and our regulated cannabis businesses. Enhanced tools at the local level are needed to combat this highly lucrative and harmful unlawful activity.

AB 1448 would provide effectual tools at the local level to act against persons that have aided and abetted unlicensed cannabis activity by allowing 1) local jurisdictions to set up penalty processes and issue administrative fines; 2) streamlining appeals and judicial review; and 3) facilitating collection of final penalties through lien mechanisms.

AB 1448 also incentivizes local jurisdictions to use the statutory penalties for unlicensed cannabis activities by revising Business and Professions Code 26038 to authorize the recovery of penalties through local administrative processes. In addition, AB 1448 allows a 50/50 state-local split of the statutory penalties recovered in actions brought by local jurisdictions, as originally enacted by the Legislature in the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA). Revenues from these actions will provide a much-needed source of funds to reinvest in illicit cannabis enforcement.

Local jurisdictions are a critical partner to successfully regulate the commercial cannabis marketplace. AB 1448 will bolster safe access to the cannabis market by targeting enforcement against unlawful operators that undermine the legal marketplace and undercut local economies.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 1448.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

cc: [Organization’s Assembly Representative]

[Organization’s Senate Representative]

Members and Staff, Assembly Business and Professions Committee