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From: hubie0607@gmail.com [mailto:hubie0607@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 9:36 PM

To: Curtis Calder <ccalder@elkocitynv.gov>

Subject: Elko County Dispensaries

Dear Members of Elko City Council,

I am writing to you to request that you reconsider your ban on marijuana dispensaries in Elko County. Many people in our community are effected by illnesses and ailments that would benefit from marijuana use. While some of these individuals already make difficult and costly trips out of town to seek their medicines, others simply do not bother obtaining a medical card because of the resulting hassle to purchase cannabis and cannabis products hours away from here. I have parents, family members, and friends who would benefit from access to cannabis for: cancers, anxiety, debilitating OCD, severely aggressive autism, intense pain management issues, multiple sclerosis, fibromyalgia, endometriosis, polycystic ovarian syndrome, seizure disorders, etc. Lives could be saved and days could be vastly improved by allowing these facilities into our area. We need you to consider our pleas. Voters in our state and city voted long ago in favor of legal medical marijuana, and more recently in favor of recreational marijuana, yet there is nowhere here or nearby for anyone to purchase this product legally.

I understand that some within the community have voiced concerns about dispensaries and cannabis use. With concern for increased usage by minors, all I can say is that pot was obtainable and used by many when I was a teen in Winnemucca 17 years ago, despite still having been illegal everywhere at the time. Alcohol, cigarettes, and prescription pills, which are alternatively very addictive and dangerous, have also been highly used by minors, illegally, for decades. Teens are not going to suddenly destroy their lives because we have a legal cannabis source. As for those who worry about DUIs, just consider: they will and do happen anyway, with or without legally obtained marijuana; that alcohol and other illegal and legal drugs already result in DUIs; and that poorly skilled drivers, distracted drivers, tired drivers, angry drivers, senile drivers, what have you, will continue to cause harmful or fatal accidents regardless of sobriety. A cannabis shop is not automatically going to create anymore intoxicated, reckless drivers than we already have. As far as mining and other industries that prevent cannabis use in their workforce, nothing changes - employees already must make the choice not to use now. Marijuana is already legal in Nevada, we just don't have anywhere local to buy it yet. In regards to federal legality and/or morality, I wonder what a city and state that allows round the clock alcohol consumption, gambling, and prostitution can meaningfully argue here.

No matter what this council decides to do, marijuana is and will continue to be used within this county, city, state, and nation. If the council decides in favor of dispensaries, we may allow people access to treat their own ailments or recreational wishes with safer, nonaddictive substances. If the council permitted a dispensary, it would only sell to adults, unlike a dealer on the street. If this council approves a city dispensary, we may reduce or stop illegal and dangerous drug sales locally. If this council provides a dispensary, we may provide products to users that are safer and healthier for their needs. If this council allows dispensaries in this area, we may stimulate economic growth through taxes, through business retention to the area, and through business gains to the area.

Stopping dispensaries will not stop marijuana use, will not stop DUIs, and will not stop underage use - it will not stop anything the council is worried about, but it will stop the legal sale and taxation of cannabis products in this area and the positive benefits from such. Do something for the people, by the people's

request. Do not let your fears and personal beliefs dictate government actions. Cannabis can do nothing that alcohol, prescription pills, gambling, and prostitution can't do worse.

“Prohibition... goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts to control a man's appetite by legislation and makes a crime out of things that are not crimes... A prohibition law strikes a blow at the very principles upon which our government was founded.” - Abraham Lincoln

I cannot attend the meeting as I will be at home with our children, while my husband works for one of our local mines. Please reconsider your decision to block dispensaries from our community. If the council will not adhere to previous voter results, I request that our council create a special election so that local voters can vote again, yes or no, on dispensaries within in our city. If you're worried about locations and numbers, ask the voters. Now that everyone is aware that their vote truly matters, we can get a clearer idea of the majority wishes for this area. Please share these thoughts with the council and meeting attendees tomorrow on my behalf. Other small governing bodies have worked through these issues to reach compromises that satisfy everyone, and I have faith that we can do the same here.

Thank you for your time,

Hayley Huber
Elko, Nevada