

## Public Comments Received

July, 2021

### July 5, 2021

To the Cannabis Control Board,

I'm writing to you for the first time as someone planning to participate in the Vermont Cannabis Community. First off, let me thank you for the work you are doing. My name is Ian Singleton and my partner Taylor Carpenter and I are excited to see the growth of this space in Vermont. Both Taylor and I are native Vermonters whose families have had a successful business here for decades. My grandfather founded Singleton's Store in 1946 and my Taylor's family founded Burton Snowboards in 1977. We are looking forward to carrying on the tradition of true family-run businesses here in Vermont and can't wait to be a part of this new chapter for Vermont's rich reputation for quality products and service.

For the past 4 years I worked for several different cannabis brands as a territory manager in California's adult use space during a time of profound industry growth and market expansion. There, I handled all of my sales and deliveries for San Diego, Palm Springs and Orange County. I worked closely with our compliance team and my retail partners to ensure we not only met but exceeded all regulations not only with packaging and labeling but also with product deliveries, in store branding and safety protocols.

Taylor not only ran his own cannabis delivery service in San Diego's medical market but also worked with Weedmaps helping them launch their athlete program. This was a great program that helped to remove the social stigma around cannabis. These athletes were raising the standard in sports by integrating cannabis into a performance-driven lifestyle to help their bodies and minds.

With our combined experience in one of the most competitive spaces in cannabis, including our exposure to the regulatory process of the cannabis market during the transition to recreational use in California, we feel we have a lot to share to help mold this community into something special that celebrates Vermont's commitment to wellness and healthy lifestyles.

As regulations are rolling out we would love to have some input and share our knowledge of the space to ensure Vermont can truly compete on a national level with best in class products comparable or better than what you could get from our neighboring states.

Respectfully,  
Ian and Taylor

- Ian Singleton, Winooski

## July 8, 2021

In Professor Villanti's slides it appears that the fear of harm perception declines as the experience rate goes up. Vermont youth sees less risk than youth from states with lower use rates in the population. Truth works. Scare programs succeed or fail when youth get educated in reality. DARE did not work. "Cannabis is terrible for health" will not work. "Cannabis with alcohol is very dangerous" can work. Nicotine is extremely addictive. Of all the drugs youth may experiment with, cannabis (vaped, not smoked) is the safest way - except for those with family history of psychosis or other mental health problems. Even caffeine can kill.

- Joe McSherry, Richmond

## July 9, 2021

Thank you CCB for a meeting yesterday dedicated to public health policy that will allow an adult retail market while maintaining best practice strategies for youth prevention of underage use.

Someone asked Ms. Morehouse about what types of Marijuana youth are using - smoking or edibles. While we don't have specific data on this, we know that edibles are not in play because they are not in the state. However, we do know that youth are vaping THC containing products as well as CBD oils. Also, there is a term called "dabbing" where youth are inhaling high concentrate THC called "shatter". This all speaks to the importance of strict regulation around edibles, youth access, and potency.

A recent study from Canada shows the following:

- Legalization of recreational cannabis in Canada was associated with increased rates of severe intoxication in children (Median age was 15-16)
- Edible ingestion was a predictor of ICU admission (OR: 4.1; 95% CI: 1.2-13.7)

Also on edibles, Accidental poisoning of infants and children are up nationally. The Northern New England Poison Control Center, since adult-use marijuana was legalized in 2016, has seen a 160% increase in related calls.

I would like to underscore that the legal THC limits of 30% THC for flower and 60% THC for concentrates are too high if we are to maintain a public health approach to cannabis regulation. As prevention works pointed out studies show that >15% THC in flower = 3x risk of psychosis and 5x if daily use. And, the study referenced does not address the concentrates issue.

Also pointed out was that Colorado is currently debating this topic in the legislature because of the mental health impacts that they are seeing.

The link URL posted with this comment provides cited sources for these findings.

Please consider a 50% reduction in currently established THC limits for flower and concentrates.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/17ZWfLIT11UgTCJRwvNjDIGZBAOP51Zw779kSMPEq\\_mzc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/17ZWfLIT11UgTCJRwvNjDIGZBAOP51Zw779kSMPEq_mzc/edit?usp=sharing)

- *Melanie Sheehan, Weathersfield*

## **July 26, 2021**

Home grow for personal use should have a more logical number of plants. The segregation of mature (in flower) and immature (in vegetative state) is unrealistic. Should an individual grow their year's worth of cannabis in our summer growing season, the plant count needs to increase. Allowing X number of in flower and Y number of in veg does not cross over to outdoor growing. For those of our state who want to grow 100% of their cannabis in a safe organic manner we need to increase the legal number of plants. However the ultimate fix would be to stop black market sales. The home growers who don't sell are not your problem. Please consider easing numeric controls.

- *Kevin Flynn, Poultney*

Large scale agriculture will always produce less per acre with more inputs. The worst thing it produces is lobbyists. While the farmer toils, the lobbyist drafts and changes legislation to benefit large scale agriculture. The gene pool will decrease and laws to protect anything but profits will be ignored. No tourist wants to sample the products of another state, because it's all the same. Without action now, Vermont will lose control. A single bottom line is a thing of the past. With so much at stake, we need to support the small producers.

- *Tim Garvey, Chester*

## **June 27, 2021**

Please make affordable a license to grow, make and sell THC cannabis edibles at farmer's markets for individuals.

- *Alicia Angel, Florence*

I am a cannabis patient and I grow my own both indoors and out as the weather allows. I would like to see the amount that a patient is allowed to grow be increased from its present level to 4 mature and 4 immature plants. Reason for my thoughts is that I harvest barely enough at current levels to provide myself with enough product to last me the three months it takes to advance to the next harvest. Harvests occur in three month cycles when growing indoors on average. Paying the high cost for dispensary products is not affordable for me as well as many other Vermonters.

Next I would like to see the establishment of some rules for propagation for people like myself that would like to create their own seed stock, I am not talking about cloning which is a completely different process that is not as preferable as some may think. Normally plants dedicated for seed production are not suitable for consumption. I would like to dedicate some

plants toward this purpose without affecting the amount I can grow for consumption. It would be nice to see licensing or permitting for people like myself who would like to propagate and provide seed stock to the public.

I think that any product that is enticing or packaged in a way that might cause children to consume any cannabis product should be illegal and remain illegal i.e. gummy bears or any other candied product.

And lastly please consider the craft growers (like myself) who would like the opportunity exist in this new marketplace.

- *Matthew Lambert, Pownal*

## **July 28, 2021**

Thanks for appearing on Vermont Edition. I appreciate the varied areas of expertise you each bring to this process. My background is agricultural, and I currently work as a cultivator for the largest licensed outdoor grow operation in Massachusetts. I asked a couple questions on the program, one of which was answered comprehensively. The query I felt was left unaddressed was how Vermont is distinguishing the difference between the medical and recreational markets.

As I mentioned, I found that Massachusetts applied the same standards for both, regarding acceptable levels of microbials to qualify for sale as smokeable flower, rather than extraction.

I understand the rigorous standards for medical products, since the product is sold to a population that may contain those who could be harmed by organisms that are harmless to the general population of a retail market.

On the ground, this is an important distinction, (flower vs. extraction) as the price difference can be 600%.

- *Chipper Sullivan, Brattleboro*