

WASHOE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE

October 19, 2021

Dear Subcommittee on Public Health,

The Washoe County Health District (Health District) is recommending that the Nevada Cannabis Compliance Board be responsible for the Food Safety regulations and inspections of all of Nevada's Cannabis consumption lounges. This will ensure consistent regulations and enforcement across the State.

The Health District's, Environmental Health Division is responsible for ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal laws, and regulating food, waste, water, vector, and other areas of public health in Washoe County. There are approximately 4,000 permitted retail food establishments in Washoe County that range from full-service restaurants, food trucks, school kitchens, grocery stores, and food manufacturing establishments. In addition, over 900 temporary food permits for special events are issued in an average year. Each facility is inspected a minimum of one time annually. Staff are Registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHS) with the State of Nevada and receive ongoing training in addition to the minimum requirements to maintain their REHS.

At this time THC, CBD, and other Cannabis biproducts are not FDA approved food additives and the Health District's regulations governing food establishments prohibit such products to be used in any food product throughout the county. While updating the Health District's regulations is possible, it will require workshops for public feedback, adoption by the Washoe County District Board of Health, and finally, adoption by the Nevada State Board of Health. In Nevada, each jurisdiction adopts their own food regulations and there is no guarantee that all jurisdictions will be able to adopt the same regulations covering THC, CBD, and other Cannabis biproducts.

There are unique challenges to inspecting food preparation and dosage of THC, CBD, and other Cannabis biproducts as various factors. For example, cooking temperature or fat content of a food product can result in increased or decreased levels of absorption rates in the body. These types of variables will require a significant amount of training and expertise to implement that the Health District is not currently prepared nor equipped to engage in. The level of expertise and training required to provide effective and efficient Food Safety inspections deserves a dedicated Statewide team of experts.

Washoe County Health District values the work this committee has engaged in to evaluate all aspects of public health and safety. Thank you in advance for your consideration of having the Nevada Cannabis Compliance Board be responsible for the Food Safety regulations and inspections of all of Nevada's Cannabis consumption lounges.

Sincerely,



Erin Dixon, MS

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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