

From: [Dan S](#)
To: [CAC Meetings](#)
Subject: CAC meeting, market participation
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Hello,
For the record my name is Dan Steele.

One way other states are attempting to be more inclusive in their market, is through a nursery license for medical patients.

A medical license in Nevada allows someone to have 12 plants, which they can use to make cannabis seeds.

If the state would allow medical patients to get a non commercial, nursery license. To sell seeds to dispensaries. This would create an avenue into the industry that isn't so costly. While supporting medical patients And helping to build community and culture around the industry.

This is something other states have implemented successfully. It's not harmful to industry sales, and is a great example of market participation.

Thanks

For the record Dan Steele

Thank you chair for your service. Thank you all.

I wanted to touch on one thing.

Local Ag is a broad term. It doesn't say producer. It means local people who farm or explore plant science, in any capacity. I read that as an opportunity to be inclusive based on passion and drive. We shouldn't be targeting an established industry that produces healthy foods and is part of their own community. They can play if they want to, but it's really to the state's detriment.



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April 12, 2024

Addition of the Cannabis Diversity Supplier Initiative

The Nevada Cannabis Commission can lead the nation by establishing the country's first Cannabis Diversity Supplier Initiative. This initiative aims to foster an inclusive supply chain that actively engages women and minority-owned businesses in the cannabis industry.

Benefits

Enhanced Economic Growth:

By integrating diverse businesses into the supply chain, the state can stimulate local economies and promote broader economic development. Diversity in suppliers can lead to more innovative solutions and competitive pricing.

Strengthened Community Ties:

Supporting minority and women-owned businesses often results in these enterprises contributing more directly back into their local communities. This can lead to improved social outcomes and stronger community relationships.

Positive State and National Recognition:

Leading such an initiative can position Nevada as a progressive leader in diversity and inclusion within the burgeoning cannabis industry, setting a benchmark for other states.

Action Items

Set Contract Dollar Goals & Benchmark

- Implement clear goals for procurement percentages from minority and women-owned businesses. Establish annual benchmarks to track progress and ensure transparency.

Creation of Incentive Programs:

- Offer incentives such as tax reductions or credits to operators who meet or exceed diversity procurement benchmarks. These incentives not only encourage participation but also make economic sense for businesses looking to reduce costs.

Supplier Development and Capacity Building

- Develop programs to help minority and women-owned businesses scale up to meet the demands of larger contracts. This could include training in business management, compliance, and operational efficiency.

Regular Reporting and Accountability:

- Require regular reporting from cannabis operators on their procurement practices and the diversity of their suppliers. Publicly share these reports to promote transparency and accountability.








Partnership with Advocacy and Business Organizations:

- Collaborate with organizations that advocate for minority and women entrepreneurs. These partnerships can help identify potential suppliers, understand their challenges, and support their growth.

In Conclusion, Cannabis Diversity Supplier Initiative presents a significant opportunity for Nevada to lead by example in creating a more inclusive and equitable cannabis industry. By setting clear goals, providing tangible incentives, and supporting the development of minority and women-owned businesses, the Nevada Cannabis Commission can drive meaningful change that benefits the industry, the economy, and the communities it serves. This initiative not only promotes diversity but also enhances the competitive and innovative landscape of Nevada's cannabis market.

Roz McCarthy

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Policy Recommendation Document for the Nevada Cannabis Commission Introduction

The Nevada Cannabis Commission Bureau (CCB) plays a pivotal role in shaping the landscape of the cannabis industry within the state. As part of its mandate, ensuring equitable access and representation for all demographics, particularly women and minorities, is crucial. This document outlines recommendations derived from the insights and discussions held during the M4MM's (Minorities for Medical Marijuana) Pathway to Progress Townhall Meeting. The focus is on establishing actionable steps, support mechanisms, and resources necessary to bolster business opportunities for these groups in the cannabis sector.

Recommendations

Establishment of a Dedicated Equity Fund:

- Action Item: Create a state-supported equity fund specifically designed to provide financial grants and low-interest loans to qualified women and minority entrepreneurs in the cannabis industry.
- Resources Needed: Allocation of state funds or redirection of a portion of cannabis tax revenue to this fund.
- Support: Collaboration with financial institutions to manage and disburse funds.

Development of a Mentorship and Training Program:

- Action Item: Launch a comprehensive mentorship program pairing new entrepreneurs with experienced industry leaders, focusing on women and minorities.
- Resources Needed: Funding for program coordinators, training materials, and event hosting.
- Support: Engage existing cannabis businesses and industry experts as mentors.

Enhancement of Licensing Assistance Programs:

- Action Item: Implement targeted assistance programs that help women and minority applicants navigate the licensing process, including preparation for compliance with state regulations.
- Resources Needed: Staff dedicated to this initiative and development of informational materials.
- Support: Legal and regulatory experts to provide workshops and one-on-one consultations.

Market Access and Promotion Initiatives:

- Action Item: Promote market access for products created by women and minority-owned cannabis businesses through state-sponsored trade shows and retail opportunities.
- Resources Needed: Funding for marketing, event organization, and participation subsidies for qualifying businesses.
- Support: Partnerships with local chambers of commerce and minority business associations.

Research and Data Collection:

- Action Item: Conduct ongoing research to assess the impact of state policies on women and minority entrepreneurs in the cannabis industry and adjust strategies accordingly.
- Resources Needed: Partnership with academic institutions for research and analysis.
- Support: Data scientists and policy analysts to ensure rigorous evaluation and reporting.

Policy and Regulatory Review Committee:

- Action Item: Form a committee to review existing cannabis regulations and recommend changes to eliminate barriers for women and minority entrepreneurs. Make recommendations on new license types that would be earmarked for women and minorities.
- Resources Needed: Establishment of a committee including stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to create policy recommendations.
- Support: Legal and industry experts to ensure comprehensive policy review.

Public Awareness and Education Campaigns:

- Action Item: Launch campaigns to educate the public on the economic and social benefits of a diverse cannabis industry.
- Resources Needed: Budget for media production, advertising, and community outreach.
- Support: Collaboration with media professionals and community leaders to amplify the message.

In Conclusion, these policy recommendations aim to create a supportive ecosystem for women and minority entrepreneurs in Nevada's cannabis industry. By implementing these initiatives, the NCC can foster inclusivity, economic growth, and social equity. The success of these measures will require coordinated efforts across various stakeholders, including state agencies, private sector participants, and community organizations. The Nevada Cannabis Commission's leadership in this endeavor will be instrumental in achieving these goals, ensuring the cannabis industry is accessible and equitable for all Nevadans.

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