

Abby Kaufmann, Executive Director
C of C d/b/a Chamber of Cannabis
abby@cofclv.org | 702-473-0836

November 20, 2024

State of Nevada Cannabis Compliance Board P.O. Box 20099 Carson City, NV 89721

Via email to <u>CCBMeetings@ccb.nv.gov</u>

Subject: Public Comment for November 21, 2024 CCB Meeting

Members of the Cannabis Compliance Board and Staff:

As the Executive Director of the Chamber of Cannabis ("Chamber"), I am submitting concerns regarding the implications of Item III on <u>today's agenda</u> and the recent Public Health & Safety Bulletin (<u>2024-04</u>) on behalf of our members. I also wish to request the CCB's cooperation in providing transparent communications regarding its submissions in the Register of Administrative Regulations.

## I. Remedial Action under NRS 241.0365

While I commend the Board for taking steps to rectify what may be minor procedural oversights, the sheer volume of corrective actions is alarming.

Not including the nine (9) approvals of meeting minutes, Agenda Item III lists twenty-four (24) instances of non-compliance with Open Meeting Law (OML) from the Cannabis Compliance Board (CCB) in 2024.

No matter the severity or nature of the thirty-three (33) violations that took place in a public setting, it is difficult *not* to imagine what this might imply about the actions and deliberations that take place behind closed doors – from investigations and audits to the general day-to-day operations of the CCB and its Staff.

From my understanding, the cannabis entities impacted by these remedial measures received little to no context on the need for reapproval, arguably reinforcing the perceived inconsistencies and lack of transparency that the public consistently expresses to this body.

CCB Mission Statement: The Nevada Cannabis Compliance Board governs Nevada's cannabis industry through strict regulation of all areas of its licensing and operations, protecting the public health and safety of our citizens and visitors while holding cannabis licensees to the highest ethical standards.



## II. Implications of Public Health & Safety Bulletin

The Public Health & Safety Bulletin from November 5, 2024 further illustrates a misalignment between the CCB's purported mission and its ability to fulfill it.

Note: As of November 20, 2024, the bulletin is not listed on the CCB website.

Some of the products impacted were harvested more than 13 months ago, and these items were on hold in Metrc long before any information was publicly available. At face value, this simultaneously implies that (a) the CCB's processes failed to catch the use of an unapproved pesticide before it was on shelves and that (b) the CCB had knowledge of the issue before advising consumers against consuming the affected products.

NRS 678A.005(4): "Public confidence and trust can only be maintained by strict but fair and equitable regulation of all persons, locations, practices, associations and activities related to the operation of cannabis establishments."

To prevent further erosion of public confidence and trust, I urge the CCB to take steps towards increased transparency and proactive communication.

## III. Transparency Regarding Regulatory Process Under the APA

The first half of 2024 included several productive conversations and demonstrations of CCB Staff's willingness to serve the business of the people.

Today, the industry is completely in the dark about the draft regulations that we all invested time and energy into. Today, we are just 74 days from the start of the 83rd Legislative Session. If any statutory changes are necessary, industry stakeholders cannot afford to wait until the 2027 legislative session for these new rules to take effect.

As such, I request that the CCB provide an update on the status of the regulations submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) as outlined below:

- LCB File No. 152-241 (Regulations 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 13; submitted on June 24, 2024)
- LCB File No. R179-241 (Regulation 12; submitted June 28, 2024) → Withdrawn as of 9/17/2024

After contacting the Legal Divison of the LCB to request insight into the status of these LCB files, and pursuant to NRS 218F.150(1), I was advised:

"Questions about the regulations of the Cannabis Compliance Board may be directed instead to the Board itself, and our office is allowed to release information relating to those regulations only with the consent of the agency or as otherwise required by law." - Email from LC@lcb.state.nv.us on 11/7/24



I understand that the CCB cannot control the pace of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB). However, the CCB can, and likely has, received additional information since June, especially seeing that the file for Regulation 12 is now listed as withdrawn in the register.

There is no statute *preventing* the CCB from consenting to this information being shared with the industry or from sharing it directly.

In fact, the Legislature declares that public confidence and trust is vital to the continued growth and success of the cannabis industry [NRS 678A.005(3)].

The final takeaway of the <u>TPMA Cannabis Market Study</u> commissioned by the CCB states that "Collaboration among industry players, policymakers, and regulators is essential for navigating these complexities and ensuring the long-term viability of the Nevada cannabis market."

As Nevada's most inclusive cannabis industry trade association, the Chamber of Cannabis intends to heed this recommendation. The strength of *our* coalition of industry stakeholders lies in its ability to enable collective action across diverse groups.

If the <u>strength of the CCB</u> truly "lies in [its] commitment to be the very best at what [it does]", we look forward to seeing this materialize and appreciate your consideration of this comment.

Highest regards,

**Abby Kaufmann**Executive Director

C of C

abby@cofclv.org

For record Dan Steele,

## CCB:

Culture in a community, refers to the shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviors, and practices that a group of people within a particular community hold and pass on to one another. Culture in a community provides a sense of identity, and a foundation for social adhesion.

Cannabis cultures need to be preserved in Nevada, to protect public health of the consumers in this State. When states make policies that protect cultivation rights, they are diversifying and preserving cannabis culture.

Some states allow home growers to have any amount of plants around 5" tall. This is helpful for home growers, because in cloning you take more cuts than you need to ensure success. Growers can easily exceed their plant count when clones root.

I am commenting on law reform for Nevada's current home growing laws. I think they are archaic and part of an agenda.