



Hello. My name is Ron Baker. I serve as the Outreach Coordinator and incoming President of the Cannabis Equity and Inclusion Community, known as CEIC.

I'm here today on behalf of the cannabis community, not the cannabis industry. Over the past year I've reached out to this board and to multiple licensed operators. I've offered ideas, proposed collaborations, and opened doors for real partnership. In return, I've been met with silence or dismissal. That is the exact difference between the cannabis industry and the cannabis community.

The industry is protected by capital and policy. The community is powered by culture, legacy, and lived experience. We are the educators, innovators, caregivers, chefs, healers, and entrepreneurs who have been doing this work without the privilege of licenses, funding, or political access. We come from the same neighborhoods most impacted by the War on Drugs, and yet we are still shut out of the wealth and opportunity this plant now generates.

I am not here to ask for charity. I am here to call out a system that continues to ignore the people it once criminalized. A system that replaced justice with bureaucracy and put profit ahead of healing.

So I ask you, when will the Cannabis Compliance Board finally partner with the cannabis community, not just the cannabis industry?

It is time to stop gatekeeping and start bridge building. Because equity is not a checkbox. It is a responsibility. And I plan to hold this system to it.

Thank you.

Ron Baker

Outreach Coordinator

Cannabis Equity and Inclusion Community