



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Board of Supervisors

1312 Fairlane, Suite 1
Yreka, California 96097
www.co.siskiyou.ca.us

(530) 842-8005
FAX (530) 842-8013
Toll Free: 1-888-854-2000, ext. 8005

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Greg Wallis
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4330
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1448 (Wallis) – Cannabis: Enforcement by Local Jurisdictions - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Wallis:

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors is writing to express support for Assembly Bill 1448, which would enhance local enforcement mechanisms against unlicensed cannabis activities.

A commonality amongst local jurisdictions is the overwhelming enforcement needs to combat unlicensed cannabis activities. Local law enforcement agencies and code enforcement struggle to effectively deter illicit cannabis operators who sidestep regulations and undermine the health and safety of residents. Enhanced tools at the local level are needed to combat this highly lucrative and harmful unlawful activity.


AB 1448 would provide effectual tools at the local level to act against persons that have aided and abetted unlicensed cannabis activity by allowing 1) local jurisdictions to set up penalty processes and issue administrative fines; 2) streamlining appeals and judicial review; and 3) facilitating collection of final penalties through lien mechanisms.

AB 1448 also incentivizes local jurisdictions to use the statutory penalties for unlicensed cannabis activities by revising Business and Professions Code 26038 to authorize the recovery of penalties through local administrative processes. In addition, AB 1448 allows a 50/50 state-local split of the statutory penalties recovered in actions brought by local jurisdictions, as originally enacted by the Legislature in the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA). Revenues from these actions will provide a much-needed source of funds to reinvest in illicit cannabis enforcement.

Local jurisdictions are a critical partner to successfully regulate the commercial cannabis marketplace. AB 1448 will bolster safe access to the cannabis market by targeting enforcement against unlawful operators that undermine the legal marketplace and undercut local economies.

For these reasons, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests your “Aye” vote when this bill is heard before your committee.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Ed Valenzuela, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: Assembly Member Megan Dahle
Senator Brian Dahle
Members and Staff, Assembly Business and Professions Committee