



Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee Public Hearing

April 29, 2019

Testimony of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

regarding

SB 1138 AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY RESTORATION FUNDS.

Distinguished members of the Finance Committee,

On behalf of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, we offer the following comments for your consideration. We ask that you include in any bill that legalizes marijuana for adult use, language to enable the State of Connecticut and Tribes to enter into agreements concerning the regulation, production and sale of cannabis by Indian Tribes in Connecticut.

In Washington State, Oregon and Nevada, states and tribes have entered into compacts relating to cannabis production and sales, and these have been successful from both the state and tribal perspective. They've created economic opportunities for tribes, while assuring state regulators that tribal marijuana enterprises operate under the same health and safety standards as state licensed companies. In each of those states, enabling legislation was passed first to permit the negotiation of state-tribal cannabis compacts. Several tribally-owned cannabis facilities are operating in those states now pursuant to compacts, and are operating successfully and safely.

We believe these agreements will facilitate and promote a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship between the State and the Tribes, enhance public health and safety, ensure a lawful and well-regulated marijuana market, encourage economic development, and provide fiscal benefits to all governments.

With respect to Senate Bill 1138, we ask that you include language to enable agreements that would address cannabis-related issues including the preservation of public health and safety; the security of production, processing, retail, and research facilities; and cross-border commerce in cannabis.

Similarly, as you consider amendments to Connecticut's existing palliative cannabis statutes, we also ask that you also enable the Tribes and the State to enter into a palliative use compact to provide that Tribes or enterprises or entities owned or licensed by Tribes may sell cannabis to qualifying patients, may sell cannabis to licensed dispensaries and may purchase cannabis from

licensed producers, all subject to such conditions as may be imposed by the terms of the palliative use compact.

We look forward to an opportunity to work with the committees of cognizance as you deliberate legalized cannabis policy.

For more information please contact Rion J. Ramirez, General Counsel, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, rionramirez@mptn-nsn.gov.