Attention Judiciary Committee Members,

As a citizen, taxpayer, and stakeholder in our state’s future, I am asking you to vote YES on SB 00016.

I believe that adults own their bodies and as such retain the right to engage in recreational marijuana, even if others still choose not to. Marijuana legalization is gaining traction throughout the country, including neighboring Massachusetts and nearby Maine. It has proven successful everywhere it's been tried.

The State of Connecticut spends money and resources chasing people who have done no harm to anyone. Enforcement clogs up the judicial system with nonviolent marijuana offenders, costing both the individual offenders and the State a great deal of money. Marijuana prohibition adds unnecessary amounts of work for our police, who could be using their time responding to actual threats to our citizens. Legalizing marijuana and expunging all previous marijuana offenses would not only save the state money, but would create a revenue opportunity, turning marijuana from an expensive cost to a net gain.

For years, national polling has indicated that a majority of Americans have at least tried marijuana in the past, and many continue to use. The idea that this many citizens are deserving of legal consequences for the nonviolent act of using marijuana is dangerous, immoral, and un-American.

We trust adults with alcohol, tobacco, and to put their lives on the line in the name of our country. It is far past time to trust them with marijuana.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cory Smith
Sterling, CT

Cory Smith
Co-Founder/Head of Operations
21A Furnace Street
PO Box 911
Danielson, CT 06239
860-377-5716
Cory@blackpondbrews.com