

Dear Honorable Sen. Lindsey Port & Rep. Zach Stephenson,

I am the owner and founder of Ms. Jane Accounting, an all female cannabis accounting firm. We work to help cannabis businesses maintain compliance Federally and at the State level with their bookkeeping, accounting and taxes. I am in support of HF100, in particular, the following points:

- All aspects working towards remedying those that have been directly and negatively impacted by the war on drugs. Providing expungement and resentencing of certain convictions, rescheduling cannabis and providing paid resources by the tax revenue generated from cannabis for those who have been set back in life due to these records. The War on Drugs has proven to be racially charged and we have to do everything in our power to level the playing field. Those that have been targeted by the war on drugs have struggled with finding housing, getting school loans, finding jobs and over lost the right to improve their life. Handing over a license is not enough. We need to do more, otherwise, we're keeping them in the cycle of let down, failure and disappointment. All of which will continue to be very expensive, not only financially, but emotionally. Generations have been stuck in this vicious cycle because of prohibition. We need restorative justice. MN has an opportunity to be the best, rather than using it for a marketing buzzword with empty promises like some of the other states.
- Another point I agree with is not following Federal Sec 280E. I am an accountant that works in other states in the recreational market. This is breaking companies. This regulation doesn't allow for a company to thrive. With the amount of revenue in cannabis, let companies use that money to create safe, regulated products. Otherwise, it will encourage the illicit market. We are already a high tax state. We claim to support local businesses, though falling in line with 280E would kill local, small businesses and pave the way for large out of state multi-state operators to run the industry. Demolishing every local small business in sight. That is not what MN claim's to stand for.
- Holding space for the low dose hemp/cbd sector is incredibly important. MN has shown there is a market for this. We need to protect this sector while introducing recreational use.
- Keeping cannabis sales tax to 10% or less. Again, cannabis is already a prosperous industry. If done right (with the points above). Cannabis revenue is not meant to be MN's cash cow. We can provide sales tax revenue towards addiction recovery programs, restorative justice, the medical cannabis program, regulation, education, research and so on while holding space for small businesses to be profitable. Additionally, if we keep our sales tax down, that could encourage out of state buyers to purchase in MN rather than their local rec state.

I don't agree with scaling up the taxes. I don't agree with cutting the funding and resources for restorative justice. My hat is off to everyone that has contributed to this bill, fought for the bill, testified for this bill. We have a little work to do, but I'm confident we are on the right track with full understanding this is a work in progress.

Thank you for your time today.

Angela L'Esperance