



April 14, 2023

Chair Olson and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

The House omnibus cannabis bill (HF 100) takes some steps to recognize Minnesota's consumers have changed and as a result we need to undertake the complex task of modernizing more outdated aspects of our cannabis laws while preserving more progressive components. Among the bill's provisions, Minnesotans lose access to support local brewers and manufacturers of lower-potency hemp products. **In addition, this bill ignores the lifeline these THC beverages represent to brewers and businesses across the state.**

**The current version of the omnibus cannabis bill, however, will cause existing low-potency hemp businesses to shut down on July 1, 2023, and inconvenience about 60% of our neighbors across the state who prefer THC to alcohol.**

**Minnesota is leading the nation with our equitable and accessible low-potency hemp edible policy;** in fact we are the very first state to separately authorize lower-potency THC products. Those who live here have noticed, and so have out of state visitors. Many beer makers and businesses have responded to changing consumer demand and added THC beverages made not just for Minnesotans but for North and South Dakotans, Wisconsinans, and others. States around us and much of the nation are looking to Minnesota with awe.

It is said that the first one through any barrier usually ends up with the most bruises. It's hard to realize that the existing regulatory structure for low potency THC edibles is actually the most equitable cannabis market **in the country**. **Please choose to preserve lower potency hemp edibles** because it is easy, and it is the right thing to do. Because preserving hemp will serve to organize and measure the best of Minnesota's energies and skills, because the challenge of cannabis legalization is one that Minnesotans are willing to accept, and one we are unwilling to postpone.

We support a cannabis policy approach that **preserves existing hemp businesses and consumer choice** to purchase THC beverages at liquor stores, grocery stores, restaurants and bars. This approach just makes sense because it's what Minnesotans have grown accustomed to.

**It's time to recognize our position as the nation's leaders in cannabis and cannabis equity - that means voting no on HF100 unless changes are made to preserve hemp businesses.**

Let's build up together,

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