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**MINNESOTA ANTI-NARCOTIC**  
**COALITION**  
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February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Dear House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee:

The proposition in the matter before this Committee can, in the words of one Legislator, be summed up as: “pot instead of food.”

All members of the House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee should vote against HF100 as this Bill would harm Minnesota and its agriculture.

Your Honors have a duty to honestly report the negative impacts HF100 would have to Minnesota farmers, our long-term agricultural capacity, and the State, on the whole.

What would be the negative outcomes:

- 1) Aquifers in half of the State’s dense agricultural production areas have essentially no capacity to support the demands upon aquifers of cannabis production—it is unthinkable to enact a policy that would kill homesteads with burdens to drill new wells chasing depleted water reserves in order to feed drug addictions and profiteering.
- 2) Crime on cannabis production farms is fact. The California bureau similar to the proposed Cannabis Management Office has reported in late 2022 (as seen in the LA Times) that their cannabis management office has been so overwhelmed trying to regulate illegal grows that there is essentially no attempt by the state agency to deal with Sinaloa-cartel and Chinese-cartel, et cetera, operations (local law enforcement have to go up against gangs armed with machine guns if and when the federal officials can make time).

## **AQUIFERS**

Cannabis production in Minnesota is certainly do be done with hoop houses, pursuing three crops per year. Cannabis plants use more water than a potato—per crop. Many farmers

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already are forced by that State to not grow food crops that would require tapping the aquifers given the sensitivity and strain, already.

- Cannabis farms would use **4** times more water than a potato farm.

The public should be informed that while Minnesota is blessed with some of the best water assets in the country, the groundwater resources in 60% of the State are fragile, in the sense of increased (or current use) being unsustainable.

Groundwater resources are fragile for the same reasons that Minnesota has been blessed for among the best mineral resources in the world—glaciers have exposed bedrock near the surface—that bedrock, in much of the State—contains little water.

Only water drawn from the Mississippi below Hastings, or Lake Superior, would not be unthinkable sources of water to support cannabis farming.

Legalized cannabis States have experienced cannabis farms (legal and illegal ones) illegally obtaining water—trucking it in from illegal collection points (LA Times, et cetera).

Cannabis production in legalized states has polluted watersheds in those States. Pollution further strains the pressure on aquifers.

## **CRIME**

Gangs raid and attack cannabis farms in the legalized States, cannabis farms in Minnesota would be subject to attack, escalating the risks of all crime, including gun crimes, in rural communities—particularly near cannabis grows.

Just as there have been incidents, for decades, of meth production using isolated areas, cannabis production would expand the activities of the same communities and foreign-and-out-of-State-gangs in a similar fashion, but with a longer-term presence.

ANC (the Minnesota Anti-Narcotic & Anti-Addictive-Drug Coalition), [www.mnANC.org](http://www.mnANC.org), is supported by SAVE (a Minnesota nonprofit founded to combat the proliferation of THC-products and addictive drugs), [www.mnNARC.org](http://www.mnNARC.org).

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