

Conference Committee
Room G-23

Dear Committee:

I'm glad you are taking these next steps to legalize marijuana in Minnesota. I think now it is about the nuts and bolts.

First, I think expungements should be made as accessible and easy as possible. It is fundamentally unfair that a person be burdened with a crime that is no longer a crime.

Second, there is concern about the relative strengths of some cannabis products. I'm in favor of an excise tax on higher potencies. I believe Illinois and Michigan both operate in this fashion. As always, the tax shouldn't be so much as to encourage a black market. That defeats part of the purpose. I see value in taxing those products which promise 25%, 50% or 75% THC levels. This isn't unheard of. Minnesota currently has a system for higher taxes for high proof alcohol.

By now, we've talked about all the reasons it should be done. I don't know what else there is to say. If it could have been policed in a way that is racially fair than it would have been. If more study was necessary then those studies could have been ordered when control of the legislature was differently aligned.

Keep up the good work! Relaxing marijuana laws is a step towards more individual freedom, more fairness, and more choices.

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