



MUCKLESHOOT TRIBAL COUNCIL

39015 172nd Avenue S.E. • Auburn, Washington 98092-9763
(253) 939-3311 • Fax (253) 931-8570



June 8, 2018

The Honorable Cory Gardner
U.S. Senate
345 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for the STATES Act

Dear Senators Gardner & Warren,

I am writing to express the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe's ("Tribe") appreciation and support for the introduction of the Strengthening the Tenth Amendment Through Entrusting States Act ("STATES Act). This legislation respects and acknowledges the sovereignty and rights of both states and tribal nations when it comes to the regulation of marijuana within their jurisdictions.

The State of Washington became one of the first two states to legalize the cultivation, sale, and adult recreational use of marijuana in 2012. This legalization created a jurisdictional conundrum for the Tribe because it is still illegal within our jurisdiction while the legal marijuana industry flourished outside of our reservation boundaries. As a result, the State, Tribe, and other tribal nations began to examine ways to work together to regulate marijuana. We were able to create a system within Washington that recognizes and respects the role of the State and the tribal nations in the regulation of marijuana.

The success of this system led my Tribal Council to carefully consider decriminalizing marijuana within our reservation. The Tribal Council concluded that the Tribe's resources were best utilized regulating a legal marijuana system.

The Tribe supports the STATES Act because it creates certainty, not just for the states, but for Indian Country as well. It will remove any doubt surrounding the Tribe's marijuana regulatory regime while protecting the valuable jobs and tax revenue that the adult use store will produce.

Gardner and Warren
June 8, 2018
Page 2

Once again, thank you for incorporating tribal provisions into this legislation. We look forward to working with you to advance this bill through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Virginia Cross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Virginia" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Cross".

Virginia Cross
Chairperson
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

cc: The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senate