



SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

April 1, 2019

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cory Gardner
United States Senate
345 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: The Reintroduced STATES Act

Dear Senators Warren and Gardner:

I write to express my support for the reintroduced Strengthening the Tenth Amendment through Entrusting States Act. With forty-six states having legalized the sale or use of marijuana in some fashion, the time for Congress to act is now. Federal prohibition is no longer a viable option and the majority of U.S. voters support leaving the decision to legalize marijuana to regional governments. Legalized recreational marijuana has been available for multiple years now, and it should be clear that the consequences of legalization are manageable and the policy justifications for federal intervention are nonexistent.

The Squaxin Island Tribe entered a marijuana compact with the State of Washington in 2015. This Tribe and others in the State who entered similar arrangements have worked hard to ensure that consumers within Squaxin Indian Country are protected, that criminals who seek to evade the requirements of Tribal or State law are prosecuted, and that youth do not gain access to this product. The Tribe has worked hand in hand with state officials to let all know that whether on or off the reservation, public safety is the uncompromising, paramount goal of both the State and the Tribe. I have seen the potential for job creation and tax revenue generation while witnessing the commitment of the State, Tribes, and Local Governments to a safe, lawful, regulated marketplace. While continuing to be ever watchful, I have not seen increases in addiction, public intoxication, crime or other problems resulting from the new access to marijuana within the Tribal community I know and love. The system is working and I believe it deserves the opportunity to continue without threat of federal intervention.

Again, my thanks for launching this important piece of legislation. It's time to protect the regulated, laboratory tested, taxed, and labelled marketplace on and off the reservation in Washington State and other jurisdictions. Let's allow these jurisdictions the freedom to work hard to preserve public safety while implementing the will of their voters. On behalf of the Squaxin Island Tribe, I endorse the reintroduced Strengthening the Tenth Amendment through Entrusting States Act.

Sincerely,

Chairman Arnold Cooper