



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***Suquamish Tribe Applauds the Introduction of the STATES Act & Its Recognition of Tribal Sovereignty***

**SUQUAMISH, June 7, 2018** – The Suquamish Tribe applauds Senators Warren (D-MA) and Gardner (R-CO) for introducing the *Strengthening the Tenth Amendment Through Entrusting States Act* (“STATES Act”). The STATES Act recognizes states’ rights, and the rights of tribal nations within those states, to decriminalize marijuana. Specifically, the legislation removes the application of the Controlled Substances Act’s prohibition on marijuana within those jurisdictions.

“The Suquamish Tribe supports this reasoned and pragmatic approach to regulating marijuana in the United States. It recognizes the dual sovereignty of states and tribal nations- striking the appropriate balance and respect for each sovereign and their voters’ decisions regarding the decriminalization of marijuana,” said Suquamish Chairman Leonard Forsman.

The Suquamish Tribe is located in Washington State and operates Agate Dreams, an adult-use marijuana retail operation, on its Port Madison Indian Reservation. Suquamish leaders made the decision to pursue marijuana only after meticulous deliberations once the State of Washington moved forward with decriminalization.

“We were left with a situation where marijuana was legal all around us and only illegal on our reservation. At that point we felt it was better to move forward with decriminalization because it would allow the Tribe to establish a regulatory regime for marijuana and raise desperately needed tax revenue,” said Suquamish Treasurer Robin Sigo.

The Suquamish Tribe urges the Senate to move quickly to pass the STATES Act and provide the certainty and ability to regulate marijuana that both states and tribes so desperately need.

#### **About Suquamish Tribe**

Suquamish is a federally recognized sovereign Tribe. The village of Suquamish and seat of the Suquamish Tribal Government are located on the Port Madison Indian Reservation, along the shores of the Puget Sound near Seattle, WA. The Suquamish Tribe provides comprehensive government, economic and social programs to approximately 1,100 tribal members. In the last two decades, the Suquamish Tribe has become a key economic partner in the region, operating several Port Madison Enterprises business ventures, a growing seafoods company and performing property management duties for lease land on the reservation. For more information visit [www.suquamish.org](http://www.suquamish.org)

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