



April 29, 2022

The Honorable John Laird
Senator, 17th District
1021 O St., Ste. 8720
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1148 (Laird): Cannabis: licenses: California Environmental Quality Act
NOTICE OF SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Laird:

The California Cannabis Industry Association (CCIA) is pleased to support your Senate Bill (SB) 1148, which would streamline the review and approval process to receive a cannabis license by eliminating duplicative compliance requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) at the State level when the local jurisdiction has conducted project specific CEQA analysis of the commercial cannabis operation.

The California Cannabis Industry Association (CCIA) was formed to unite the legal cannabis industry to help educate and act as a resource to lawmakers, state regulators, and our members. Our unified voice of over 400 California businesses, represents over 600 brands and approximately 15,000 employees.

In 2021, CCIA led efforts to extend the State's provisional licensing program for cannabis, which was first established in [2018](#) to ensure that existing cannabis operators are able to legally operate while their applications for annual licensure are being evaluated. [AB 141](#) (Assembly Budget Committee, 2021) and [SB 160](#) (Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee, 2021) were enacted to provide more time for the State and local governments to evaluate applications for licensure, which include rigorous CEQA review at both the local and state level. Despite the provisional license extension, current estimates provided by the DCC indicate that roughly 70 percent of all licenses are still under provisional licensing status and will need to undergo full CEQA review again before transitioning into annual license status.

Under Proposition 64, commercial cannabis operators must be locally permitted before receiving a state annual license. Commercial cannabis applicants subject to local discretionary permitting programs undergo project specific CEQA analysis during the local permitting process. Upon

issuance of a discretionary permit, the permit holder is then issued a notice of exemption or a notice of determination. Under existing law, the DCC is mandated to re-review the local jurisdiction's CEQA analysis and make a secondary determination before the issuance of an annual license.

SB 1148 would streamline this redundant review and approval process by removing the requirement that the DCC re-review the local jurisdiction's project specific CEQA analysis before issuing an annual license. Eliminating the duplicative review conducted by the DCC will expedite the approval of these applications, while ensuring a thorough CEQA analysis has been conducted. Shortening the time, it takes to obtain an annual license will improve prospects for existing licensees to compete and thrive. For these reasons, CCIA strongly supports SB 1148, and thanks you for your leadership on this critically important issue.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our legislative advocate, Amy O'Gorman Jenkins, at (707) 291-3270 or amy@precisionadvocacy.co.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsay Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LINDSAY ROBINSON
Executive Director