



Hon. Charles E. Schumer
 Majority Leader
 322 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Mitch McConnell
 Minority Leader
 317 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Nancy Pelosi
 Speaker of the House
 1236 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Kevin McCarthy
 Minority Leader
 2468 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Sherrod Brown
 Chair
 Senate Committee on Banking,
 Housing and Urban Affairs
 503 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Pat Toomey
 Ranking Member
 Senate Committee on Banking,
 Housing and Urban Affairs
 455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Maxine Waters
 Chair
 House Committee on Financial
 Services
 2221 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Patrick McHenry
 Ranking Member
 House Committee on Financial
 Services
 2004 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

April 19, 2021

Dear Congressional Leaders:

As our States' chief executives, we urge Congress to pass legislation allowing states with legalized medical or adult-use cannabis to operate safely under the national banking system. We strongly support the passage of the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2021 (H.R. 1996/S. 910) or similar legislation that would remove the legal uncertainty and allow banks and credit unions to provide services to state-licensed cannabis-related businesses.

We were pleased that the House passed similar legislation in the 116th Congress (H.R. 1595). The SAFE Banking Act of 2021 already has more than 165 bipartisan House cosponsors and more than 30 bipartisan Senate cosponsors. The legislation has also received support from more than 30 associations.

Currently, 36 U.S. states, four U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia have legalized the medical use of cannabis. Additionally, 18 states, two territories, and the District of Columbia have legalized recreational use by adults over 21 years of age. Despite legalization of cannabis at the state-level, our financial institutions face enormous legal risks and criminal and civil liability under the Controlled Substances Act. These barriers disincentive financial institutions from providing banking services to state-licensed and regulated cannabis businesses.

Because few banks and credit unions provide these services, state-licensed cannabis businesses predominantly operate on a cash basis. Without banking services, state-licensed cannabis businesses are unable to write checks, make and receive electronic payments, utilize a payroll provider, or accept credit and debit cards. Cash only businesses pose a significant public safety risk to customers and employees. The cash-only environment also burdens state and local government agencies that must collect tax and fee payments in person and in cash, which creates additional public expenses and employee safety risks.

State and federal governments have a shared interest in upholding the rule of law, protecting public safety, and transitioning markets out of the shadows and into our transparent and regulated banking system. Many of our states have implemented laws and regulations to reduce these risks while ensuring financial accountability of the cannabis industry. These public safety risks can be further mitigated on the federal level by passing the SAFE Banking Act to provide state-licensed cannabis businesses with access to banking service providers.

We urge you to pass the SAFE Banking Act of 2021 or similar legislation that would provide a safe harbor for depository institutions that provide a financial product or service to a state-licensed cannabis business in states that have legalized cannabis. We look forward to working with you as legislation progresses to address this urgent public policy and safety concern.

Sincerely,



Governor Jared Polis
State of Colorado



Governor Gavin Newsom
State of California



Governor Ned Lamont
State of Connecticut



Governor JB Pritzker
State of Illinois



Governor John Bel Edwards
State of Louisiana



Governor Janet Mills
State of Maine



Governor Charlie Baker
State of Massachusetts



Governor Gretchen Whitmer
State of Michigan



Governor Steve Sisolak
State of Nevada



Governor Phil Murphy
State of New Jersey



Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
State of New Mexico



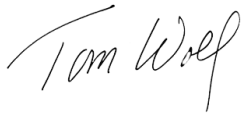
Governor Andrew Cuomo
State of New York



Governor Doug Burgum
State of North Dakota



Governor Kate Brown
State of Oregon



Governor Tom Wolf
State of Pennsylvania



Governor Spencer Cox
State of Utah



Governor Albert Bryan
Territory of U.S. Virgin Islands



Governor Ralph Northam
State of Virginia



Governor Jay Inslee
State of Washington



Governor Jim Justice
State of West Virginia



Governor Tony Evers
State of Wisconsin