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Washington CannaBusiness Association supports legislation that protects safety, privacy of regulated license holders

WASHINGTON – Today the Washington CannaBusiness Association (WACA), the only professional organization comprised solely of licensed marijuana producers, processors and retailers, announced its support for SB 6207, a bill to protect the safety and privacy of individuals applying for or holding an I-502 license issued by the Liquor and Cannabis Board.

“SB 6207 is an opportunity for elected leaders in Olympia to continue their successful implementation of voter-approved Initiative 502 in 2012,” said Vicki Christophersen, WACA Executive Director. “In 2015, the governor, State Senate and House and the Liquor and Cannabis Board helped lead the country in supporting a safe, regulated and quality-controlled cannabis marketplace. As we continue to establish a system and rules that safeguard communities and keeps marijuana away from kids, the Washington CannaBusiness Association will continue supporting legislation that codifies policies to help the regulated cannabis marketplace succeed.”

SB 6207 would allow I-502 license holders and applicants to join other organizations and practices that are partially exempt from specific public disclosure laws. WACA’s support for this legislation is driven by concerns from regulated cannabis business owners regarding the nature and availability of sensitive personal and business information that could expose individuals or the public to harm. Under SB 6207 security-related information such as marijuana product location and transport information, ownership, finances and bank account numbers, unique identities issued by the government to private operations, as well as information related to the marijuana traceability system that could identify a person or location, would not be subject to public disclosure. No one should be made vulnerable by revealing what could create targets out of items perceived to be high-value.

Local, state or federal officials would still have access to this information under SB 6207, continuing to allow close regulation and monitoring of the cannabis marketplace.

The Washington CannaBusiness Association (WACA) legislative agenda in 2016 follows on the successful completion of all three of the industry's top legislative priorities in the 2015 session:

- The successful passage of the Cannabis Patient Protection Act, creating a safe, regulated and quality-controlled marketplace for the entire cannabis industry
- The successful passage of 2HB 2136, creating a streamlined taxing structure to eliminate unintended consequences of I-502 such as double taxation
- The successful adoption of new regulations to allow third-party safe transport of cannabis products and associated revenue

About Washington CannaBusiness Association

Washington CannaBusiness Association solely represents Washington's licensed and regulated cannabis businesses and provides its members with general support and representation before regulatory agencies and the legislature. As an association of cannabis producers, processors and retailers who have gathered to promote the private cannabis industry created by Initiative 502 and our member companies, our mission is to advocate on behalf of our member companies in the legislative, regulatory, legal and public policy arenas.

Learn more about Washington CannaBusiness Association by visiting our website at <http://www.wacannabusiness.org>

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