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## **Regulated Cannabis Industry Is Working**

*WACA points to data emphasizing safe, quality-controlled products that are kept out of the hands of minors*

WASHINGTON – Today the Washington CannaBusiness Association (WACA) released the following statement by board member and retail license-holder Jim Mullen regarding the recent communication between Washington State elected officials and Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

“We welcome an open, informed conversation about the regulated system around cannabis in Washington,” **said Jim Mullen, WACA board member and owner of the Herbery, a retail cannabis business in Vancouver.** “Evaluation of the regulated system in Washington State must be based on current facts, not old fears. Any time the federal government is eager to be involved with state-based, voter-approved issues, it is critically important to use the most current data available as part of any assessment. Attorney General Sessions cites a single document for the basis of his questions, relying on data from mid-2015 and earlier. This is important because this data precedes the implementation of our regulated industry following the inclusion of the previously entirely unregulated medical dispensary marketplace in July 2016, the result of legislation championed by our association during the 2015 Legislative Session. While well-intentioned and appropriate at one time, this study is an outdated snapshot of a rapidly-evolving industry.”

**Mullen continued:** “The reality is that individual states have given voters the choice on marijuana and the momentum toward increased legalization is escalating. Since the information Attorney General Sessions cited was published, voters have continued to legalize marijuana across the country. Research that evaluates the most current state-of-the industry, including the industry in Washington State, should be the foundation for public policy and we welcome the opportunity to participate with Attorney General Sessions in attaining current, relevant information. As always, Washington State’s regulated cannabis business owners stand ready to work with the federal government to ensure that the intent of Washington voters is upheld in realizing a successful regulated marketplace for cannabis that keeps marijuana out of the hands of minors.”

## **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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