



November 9, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
 Senate Majority Leader
 United States Senate
 322 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
 Speaker of the House
 United States House of Representatives
 1236 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Mitch McConnell
 Senate Minority Leader
 United States Senate
 317 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
 House Minority Leader
 United State House of Representatives
 2468 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed
 Chairman
 U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services
 728 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
 Chairman
 U.S. House Armed Services Committee
 2264 Rayburn Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Inhofe
 Ranking Member
 U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services
 205 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers
 Ranking Member
 U.S. House Armed Services Committee
 2469 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Banking
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Chairwoman
U.S. House Financial Services Committee
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick Toomey
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Banking
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick McHenry
Ranking Member
U.S. House Financial Services Committee
2004 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act Amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022

Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, Chairman Smith, Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe and Ranking Member Rogers:

As our states' chief executives, we urge Congress to include the U.S. House of Representatives Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act amendment (SAFE Banking Amendment) in the final FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (NDAA) Conference Agreement.

On September 21, 2021, the U.S. House of Representatives added the SAFE Banking Amendment by voice vote to the NDAA. The SAFE Banking Amendment will allow cannabis businesses to access normal banking services, which will transition fully cash-based cannabis transactions into the financial system where they belong.

Thirty-seven states, four U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia have passed some form of recreational or medical cannabis legalization measures. Medical and recreational cannabis sales in the U.S. were estimated to total \$17.5 billion last year, but because of antiquated federal banking regulations, almost all cannabis transactions are cash-based. Not only are cash-only businesses targets for crime, cannabis businesses are further disadvantaged compared to other legal businesses by being unable to open bank accounts or obtain loans at reasonable rates. The cannabis industry is legal in some form in the majority of U.S. states and it is too large of a market to be prohibited from banking opportunities.

The SAFE Banking Amendment will remedy these harms and help keep communities in our states and territories safe by allowing legitimate and legal cannabis companies to access banking services. Financial institutions will subject the funds and account holders to rigorous anti-money laundering and "Know Your Customer" requirements that will further help states where cannabis has been made legal to keep bad actors out of the system. The SAFE Banking Amendment will also harmonize federal and state law to ensure that

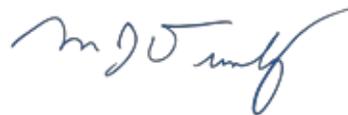
depository institutions that provide banking services to legitimate cannabis-related businesses and ancillary businesses are not penalized.

Simply put, this is a public safety issue that Congress has a responsibility to address. The SAFE Banking Act has now passed the U.S. House of Representatives five times but the Senate has never voted on the measure. The SAFE Banking Act has more bipartisan support than ever before and Congress must take steps to ensure that this measure is included in the final version of the NDAA that goes to President Biden's desk.

Sincerely,



Governor Jared Polis
State of Colorado



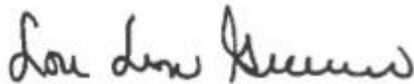
Governor Mike Dunleavy
State of Alaska



Governor Gavin Newsom
State of California



Governor Ned Lamont
State of Connecticut



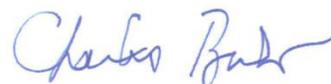
Governor Lou Leon Guerrero
Territory of Guam



Governor JB Pritzker
State of Illinois



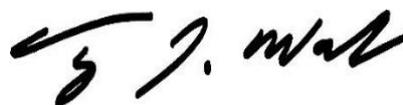
Governor Janet Mills
State of Maine



Governor Charlie Baker
State of Massachusetts



Governor Gretchen Whitmer
State of Michigan



Governor Tim Walz
State of Minnesota



Governor Steve Sisolak
State of Nevada



Governor Phil Murphy
State of New Jersey



Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
State of New Mexico



Governor Kathy Hochul
State of New York



Governor Doug Burgum
State of North Dakota



Governor Kate Brown
State of Oregon



Governor Tom Wolf
State of Pennsylvania



Governor Dan McKee
State of Rhode Island



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 Tony Evers
State of Wisconsin



Muriel Bowser
Mayor of the District of Columbia