

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 10, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Chairman
Commerce, Justice and Science (CJS)
Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
H-310, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt
Ranking Member
Commerce, Justice and Science (CJS)
Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chair Cartwright, and Ranking Member Aderholt,

As you continue negotiations for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we request that you include language barring the use of federal funds for the Department of Justice to prosecute those who are in compliance with their state-legal or tribal-legal adult-use marijuana laws.

To date, 48 states have enacted laws that, to varying degrees, relax their prohibitions against the use of marijuana or its components, such as CBD oil. Of those, 36 states have medical marijuana programs, and 18 of those states plus Washington, D.C., the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam have adult-use programs. Most of these laws were decided by the voters directly through ballot initiatives. We believe that the federal government should not interfere with these programs and the will of the voters of these states.

Any end of year appropriations package must include the following language:

None of the funds made available by this Act to the Department of Justice may be used, with respect to any of the States, the District of Columbia, or U.S. territories to prevent any of them from implementing their own laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of marijuana.

In 2019, similar language was supported by the House of Representatives by a vote of 267-165 and again in 2020 by a vote of 254-163.

Additionally, as states increasingly establish state-legal marijuana programs, tribes continue to face uncertainty with respect to federal guidance on marijuana. The federal government should provide clarity and respect the sovereignty and will of Indian tribes should they choose to enact marijuana laws in the same way that most states have.

Therefore, we also ask to include the following language:

None of the funds made available by this Act to the Department of Justice may be used to prevent any Indian tribe (as such term is defined in section 4 of the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) from enacting or implementing tribal laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of marijuana.

The House of Representatives passed this language in 2019 by voice vote.

As Congress continues to consider broader reforms to our nation's marijuana laws, it is critical that the FY 2022 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill provide clarity and certainty to states, tribes, the District of Columbia, and territories that the federal government will not interfere with their marijuana programs, regardless of whether the marijuana laws are adult-use or medicinal.

Thank you for your consideration and your support.

Sincerely,



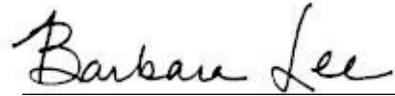
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress