

In order to be effective on distributing the 39 licenses, recommendations have to be presented to legislation to make changes. One example is the footage distances from schools etc. Those restrictions need to be lifted and relaxed in order for there to be any place to put retail locations. Without going through legislation to change them, the 39 licenses will all be failures. There are a number of other addition changes that need to be made that require going to legislation to ensure success for the 39 licenses. I believe another issue that requires legislation is requesting \$30 million of the state cannabis tax money to be added to technical assistance along with \$15 million in low interest loans. The work group all voted and agreed on \$333 million and that was left out. You're asking for the 30 million and the 15 million you could've asked for the 33 million like their work group had all voted on. There are other issues but the bottom line is the task force leadership is trying to avoid the issues that the community wants and the the issues the work group all voted yea on. The last licensing meeting the work group unanimously voted to recommend the next 500 licenses going to social equity applicants. That was not recommended.

There appears to be a mafia style strong-arm move to manipulate the program and deceive the community. By delaying those issues that will assure there won't be enough time to put them on the agenda to present to the legislators next session. This is a diversion tactic and manipulation. The situation is going from bad to worse.

We will not be censored.

Thanks

Jim Buchanan
Buchanan Management Group
Jimb@buchanan-management.com
(206)321-1814

Washington State African American Community Seek True Equity and Equality in the Cannabis Industry.

The African American community in the Washington state is standing up for what they have been robbed of for 580 years.

Jim Buchanan is a native and resident of Seattle central district. He's a entrepreneur, recreational marijuana retail owner, nation wide operator and business consultant. He has concerns about the true motive of the state of Washington and their intent to implement their social equity program. (bill 1443 and 2870).

"The bill reads: Under the social equity program, marijuana retailer licenses that have been subject to forfeiture, revocation, or cancellation by the LCB may be issued or reissued to a social equity applicant who meets the requirements for the license. In addition, marijuana retailer licenses that were not previously issued by LCB, but could have been issued without exceeding the statewide limit established before January 1, 2020, may be issued under the social equity program."

There currently approximately 560 retail licenses issued in the state of Washington and about 3 to 5 are majority owned by African-Americans. Since licensing began in 2014 there has been no path for African-Americans to get in the Cannabis industry. Not only has there not been any pathway but there's been consistent discrimination and road blocks preventing African-Americans from entering in the legal Cannabis industry, Buchanan says.

African-American communities are targeted and arrested three times the rate than Anglo Saxons for marijuana and other drugs however we have been blocked from the economic opportunities since it has become legal.

For the native Americans, Washington State has developed a template of equity and equality however; the state seems to struggle how to give true equity and equality to the African American community”.

In United States they have been two race of people that have been brutally murdered abused and taking advantage of since the birth of what's known as United States of America. One race is Native Americans and the other is African Americans. The native Americans were originally natives and the African-Americans were originally Africans. The British literally murdered and destroyed the natives to take over their land successfully so, then formed treaties to try and live in peace. The Europeans (British) went to Africa to trade goods and decided enslaving Africans is more profitable so they captured them, brutally murdered them and force them into slavery in year 1442.

Slavery became a huge economical resource in Europe especially with the British. Even those it's known that the slaves were brought to North America before 1607, it's well noted that slavery began in what we now know as United States of America.

[America's History of Slavery Began Long Before Jamestown](#)

When the British came to Jamestown Virginia they began their brutality on murdering natives and brought slaves over from Africa to develop their infrastructure. While Africans were abused, raped and murdered they continued to persevere through the devastation. As a perk the British allow the Natives to participate in the slave trade and some tribes bought, sold, abused the Africans and force them to develop their infrastructure also.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/how-native-american-slaveholders-complicate-trail-tears-narrative-180968339/>

The natives joined forces with the Confederates in the civil war to try and stop the slaves from being freed so they can continue profiting on slave labor.

When it comes to equity and equality our country has a difficult time on defining it pertaining to African Americans. We have never been compensated for what's happened to us and we don't get equal or fair treatment today. There are three industries that our government has forged a lane (like they should) to assure that Native Americans are acquiring wealth. The oil industry, gaming, and now cannabis. They have been generating billions of dollars from the oil and gaming industries and now cannabis that has allowed them to become economically independent and a fuel resource back to the general community.

- Native American population in the United States 6.8 million people
- African-American population in United States 46.8 million people
- Native American population in Washington state a 220 thousand people
- African-American population in Washington state 411 thousand people

- There are **29 federally recognized tribes** in Washington State and all 29 of those have Class III gaming compacts. Twenty-two tribes operate 29 casinos under compact.

- Last year, 22 of Washington's 29 federally recognized tribes with total membership of 103,000 generated an **estimated \$1.95 billion** in net receipts from casino operations, according to the Washington Gaming Commission.

State Of Washington has cleared the land so that \$1.95 billion can be increase from 50% to 100% more in the next two years. The state just approved Sports gambling for The native American tribes and casinos.

[Senate passes bill allowing sports gambling in Washington state tribal casinos](#)

I fully support the Native Americans getting equitable power that they so deserved. Nothing can repay them of the devastation that was caused upon their race. My issue is, why doesn't the state of Washington understand how to create a equitable program for African-Americans? When it comes to African-Americans we're still seen as the race that does not deserve true equity and equality. We're being abused even when they say they're creating a equity program, it's a insult. While the State acts like they don't understand how to create equity and equality for the African-American, they continue to forge huge lanes for the Native Americans to continue to acquire generational wealth.

Since 1441 Africans were raped, beaten, murdered and brought to Europe as slaves to build there infrastructure and serve the white British master. In 1609, the British adopted that same slavery blueprint in United States. After the slaves arrived in Virginia they were beaten, murdered, castrated, raped and separated from their families. That caused Enormous Mental, physical, and emotional damage. Then the Europeans went to Africa and colonize the African countries and raped the African of all of their minerals and resources (gold and diamond) until they fiercely fought to gain there freedom and Independence from the European bondage. "

By law Slavery ended in 1865, but it still existed by way of Inequality and economic slavery. African-Americans have never received any compensation for the brutal atrocities that we experienced are still experiencing. We expect real social equity and equality. We expect the lane to be paved for us in industries like the template has been set for the Native Americans. In 2013 we were discriminated against and cut out of the cannabis industry in the state of Washington. The State Of Washington has no intent of true equity and equality for African Americans while making sure the Native Americans are taken care of. Now is time to do the right thing. we were and are arrested, targeted and racially profiled in the state of Washington and went to prison for the war on drugs at a alarming rate. We deserve and are owed to be a major part of the 502 Legal Cannabis business in Washington state to assure generational wealth and economic stability for our community. We will not stop until we receive True Equity, Equality and Economic Justice. We should be able to exhale and enjoy the process of getting equity, equality and economic justice, But we are unable to because there process of giving equality to African Americans is racist.

Jim Buchanan
Buchanan Management Group
Jimb@buchanan-management.com
(206)321-1814

Points

- All cannabis licenses are social equity licenses until 2029
- After 2029, 50% of all licenses issued are social equity licenses. Perpetual
- 300 new social equity retail licenses through 2029
- 50% of State cannabis taxes issued to the community investment program, perpetual.
- All new social equity awardees receive up to a \$300,000 grant. Perpetual
- Lift the state retail license cap to 860 for the 300 new social equity licenses only.
- Distance changes from retail entity for social equity recipients:
 - A.Elementary or secondary school (500)
 - B. Child care (250)
 - C.public parks, (remove)
 - D.playgrounds (remove)
 - E.public transit center (remove)
 - F. Library (remove)
 - G. Game Arcade (remove)All perpetual for social equity retail recipients
- Bring all licenses types to 50% social equity licenses. All future license types in 502 cannabis have to be issued to social equity applicants until social equity represents 50% of license type. After that has been achieved, the social equity licenses have to represent 50% of all new licenses issued.
- Social Equity licensee development Fund:
 - \$30 million biannually for new licensees to receive up to \$300,000 each based on licenses type. Up to \$300,000 is perpetual for all new social equity licenses holders based on license type.
 - \$15,000,000 biannually available for low interest loans.
- Technical assistance Grant:
 - 1,100,000 grant remains
- 100 producers social equity licenses through 2029
- 100 processor social equity licenses through 2029

Jim Buchanan
Buchanan Management Group
Jimb@buchanan-management.com
(206)321-1814

To: the Washington State Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force

My name is Philip Petty. I am a second generation Washingtonian, born and raised in Seattle. I am writing this letter to show my support and urge the Task Force and legislators to incorporate the changes we want made to E2SHB 2870. There is no question that the War on Drugs has negatively impacted the Black community, doing irreparable damage to our financial legacy – among other things – for generations.

I have read the [plan](#) laid out by the ACLU about the War on Drugs in the Black Community. The ACLU reports the damage done to the community as well as how the Black community could benefit from the Social Equity in Cannabis program.

I have participated in the Social Equity Workgroup Board meetings on Zoom, have listened carefully to input from attendees and have engaged outside of the meetings with people in the Black community, in and around Seattle. I have reported back on some of the resolutions discussed in the meetings. As I have stated many times in the Board meetings, “social equity” as we refer to it, is an amends process. In that process, when making amends, you *ask* the person(s) harmed “*how can we make it right?*” The Black community has spoken and made reasonable, measurable and equitable suggestions answering that very question. While it doesn’t make it “right”, as it is impossible to repair the depth of damage done to the Black community, it will certainly help in closing the equity gap and hopefully chart a new course to future equity for generations to come.

The following are the suggestions that the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force and the community came up with, which were not included in the last draft. These suggestions are measurable amends, well within budget, which should be *updated* in the FINAL BILL REPORT E2SHB 2870:

- All cannabis licenses are social equity licenses until 2029
- After 2029, 50% of all licenses issued are social equity licenses, perpetual.
- 300 new social equity retail licenses through 2029
- 50% of State cannabis taxes issued to the community investment program, perpetual.

- All new social equity awardees receive up to \$300,000 grant, perpetual.
- Lift the state retail license cap to 860 for the 300 new social equity licenses only
- Distance changes from retail entity for social equity recipients:
 - a) elementary or secondary schools (500)
 - b) child care (250)
 - c) public parks (remove)
 - d) playgrounds (remove)
 - e) public transit center (remove)
 - f) library (remove)
 - g) game arcade (remove)
 All perpetual for social equity retail recipients
- Bring all license types to 50% social equity licenses
- All future license types in 502 cannabis have to be issued to social equity applicants until social equity represents 50% of license type. After that has been achieved, the social equity licenses have to represent 50% of all new licenses issued
- Social equity licensee development fund:
 - \$30 million biannually for new licensees to receive up to \$300,000 each based on license type. Up to \$300,000 is perpetual for all new social equity license holders based on license type.
- \$15,000,000 biannually available for low interest loans
- Technical assistance grant: \$1,100,000 grant remains
- 100 producers social equity licenses through 2029
- 100 processor social equity licenses through 2029

This is a chance for the State of Washington to do it right, paving the way for the entire country. Anything less than implementing these recommendations is simply endorsing the new version of “redlining” with licenses buried by moratoriums, non-existent financial support and unrealistic distance barriers that no other retailer is facing.

I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to the trailblazers who started this process to get a Bill on the books. I appreciate your time and I am confident that their hard work and effort will be seen in *updates* to the Bill as outlined above, listening to the voices of the Black community this Washington Legislature serves!

Kindest regards,

Philip J. Petty

Washington State Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force:

Most know the state of Washington has a history of institutional, historic and systemic racism that has creates a wealth gap that places descendants of enslaved, colonized and all diaspora descendants of Africa at an inhumane economic disadvantage. The process in place further exacerbates this.

As a former elected State Representative, I have a vast knowledge of the ploy and practices Washington State has of using hand picked African-Americans and determine them "leaders" among us. In his book, The Mis-education of the Negro, published in 1934 with several up to date reprints, Carter G. Woodson writes of this practice to keep our population from fair competition. I do not know of this practice that has our government hand choose and name Whites not chosen by a general white population as leaders of the entire white race.

Our organization along with other community organizations, have been following the Washington State social equity in cannabis process and we have found that the leadership is inappropriate and influenced to not allow a equitable program and for the right recommendations to be submitted . We have also found the leadership to be disrespectful and abusive towards our people. We will not allow this to continue. The development of this task force was created to make sure the real voices of our community is not present or heard. Our communities voice has been censored and abused. This shall end.

The population of Blacks as identified in this letter, at large, are actively engaged to ensure equality and economic justice happens with an outcome of the closing of the wealth gap. Along with many others, we are ready to fight to fight collaboratively to ensure the right recommendations are submitted in this first layered process. The process will be watched, analyzed as it moves along. There is a growing, united and engaged activism of clear thinkers, who will not bow to the tactics that has placed Blacks at the bottom of the wealth gap. You are in receipt of the entire list of points to be recommended. Here is a short list of a longer list.

Abbreviated list of Points

- All cannabis licenses are social equity licenses until 2029
- After 2029, 50% of all licenses issued are social equity licenses. Perpetual
- 300 new social equity retail licenses through 2029

- 50% of State cannabis taxes issued to the community investment program, perpetual.

Sincerely,

Dawn Mason
Former WA State Representative
Elder of Distinction
Chair, King County Equity Now

--

Dawn Mason, M.Ed
(c) 206.280.6992

To: The Washington State Social Equity Cannabis Task Force

Good afternoon,

I would like to address the matter of social equity, equality, and economic justice as it relates to the Washington state social equity cannabis program. As one of the co-founders of the Washington State Chapter of the Black Panther Party in Seattle in 1968 and currently as President of Executive Diversity Services, the fight for freedom and economic justice, and equity and inclusion remains a high priority for me personally.

Our struggle for human rights was based in the raw realities of racism and oppression I witnessed firsthand growing up in the civil rights era of the 50's and 60's. As a 13-year-old I marched with Dr. King when he came to Seattle in 1963 in support of his dream for freedom and economic justice. And as a 17-year-old I became a Panther to stand up against police brutality, racism and the exploitation and oppression of black and all oppressed people. [Embracing 'Black Power' and fighting injustice with a law book and a gun.](#)

Our demand was to have the power to control the destiny of our Black communities, to live in homes fit for the shelter of human beings, to have access to free health care, and the immediate end to police brutality and murder of Black men and women. We fed 2000 kids a week a hot breakfast every morning and launched a series of "*Survival Programs Pending Liberation*" as we referred to them including the Carolyn Downs Family Medical Clinic which continues to operate to this day.

When drugs were flooded into our community, we fought for justice for the many young Black and Brown youth who were the targets of the "*War on Drugs*" in the 80's and 90's. Now those same drugs are either legal or part of what the government now calls an epidemic funneling millions of dollars into rehabilitation efforts, primarily aimed at white youth while Black and Brown youth have served and continue to serve many years in prison for a bag of weed. It's time to remedy this injustice. I stand with others in unity with our community in support of the below points.

- All cannabis licenses are social equity licenses until 2029
- After 2029, 50% of all licenses issued are social equity licenses. Perpetual
- 300 new social equity retail licenses through 2029
- 50% of State cannabis taxes issued to the community investment program, Perpetual.
- All new social equity awardees receive up to a \$300,000 grant. Perpetual
- Lift the state retail license cap to 860 for the 300 new social equity licenses only.
- Distance changes from retail entity for social equity recipients:
 - A. Elementary or secondary school (500)
 - B. Childcare (250)
 - C. Public parks, (remove)
 - D. Public transit center (remove)
 - E. Library (remove)
 - F. Game Arcade (remove)
- All perpetual for social equity retail recipients
- Bring all license types to 50% social equity licenses. All future license types in 502 cannabis have to be issued to social equity applicants until social equity represents 50% of license type. After that has been achieved, the social equity licenses have to represent 50% of all new licenses issued.
- Social Equity licensee development Fund: \$30 million biannually for new licensees to receive up to \$300,000, each based on licenses type. Up to \$300,000 is perpetual for all new social equity licenses based on license type. \$15,000,000 biannually available for low interest loans.
- Technical assistance Grant: 1,100,000 grant remains
- 100 producers' social equity licenses through 2029
- 100 processor social equity licenses through 2029

What Dr. King and so many other civil rights activists, including members of the Black Panther Party died for, cannot and will not be in vain. I stand with our community with the demands of social equity, equality, and economic justice.

Regards,

Elmer Dixon
President

Executive Diversity Services

1700 7th Ave, Suite 2100

Seattle WA 98104

(206) 224-9293 (V)

(206) 224-9293 (F)

edixon@executivediversity.com

World Class Expertise....Bottom Line Impact

To Washington state social equity in cannabis task force:

Some folks reading this will say, why is he writing this email and bringing up the past. They will also say, we have a lot of work to do and we need to focus on the work. My answer is, if the task force intentions would've been right from the beginning, we wouldn't be having these concerns and conversations. The fact is the community has zero faith in the task force so we will continue to take aggressive action. For the most part, It's the communities voice and efforts that has moved the process and recommendations where they are now, (while being censored) and we will not stop until we get the right issues through legislation. It's sickening to hear and see your disgusting attitudes, and your sell out positions, especially folk that have been given leadership positions and are African American. Unfortunately, for the most part we have always had leadership in our community sell out. We have also had community organizations that were formed to lead the community, instead they've been self-serving for names sake, non effective or simply absent. If the shoe fits wear it. We also have a few task Force members, community leaders and organizations that are brave and courageous, and we thank you for your service and dedication. However; we need all task force members to demanded TRUE equity, equality, and economic Justice for the African American community. So hear I go!!!!

The time is NOW

The time is now for true equity, equality and economic justice. The time is now for folk in leadership to precisely and distinctly step up for the items that represent the true meaning of equity, equality and economic justice. The time is now for the full task force to hear, listen, and implement the ask/demands of our community that is impacted by the war on durgs and have been victims of economic rape and abuse for centuries. The time is now for the state of Washington to stop acting as it they don't know what social equity, equality and economic justice looks like for African-Americans. In case you need a example, Economic justice looks like this.

Washington State has 35 Indian gaming casinos owned by 27 tribes. (Source: [National Indian Gaming Commission](#), April 6, 2021)

The Washington State Gambling Commission has signed gaming compacts for [Class III Gaming](#) at 29 of the 35 casinos. The remaining six casinos operate [Class II Gaming](#) under the Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. (Source: [WAGC Gaming Compacts](#))

Last year recognized tribes with total membership of 103,000 generated an **estimated \$1.95 billion** in net receipts from casino operations, according to the Washington Gaming Commission. In addition this year the State Of Washington's Governor and legislators has cleared the lane so that the \$1.95 billion will increase approximately 50% to 100% annually by passing a bill allowing sports gambling at the native casinos.

[Washington Sports Betting: Tribal Casinos & State Working on Compact \(2021 Legal Update\)](#)

[Senate passes bill allowing sports gambling in Washington state tribal casinos](#)

- Native American population in the United States 6.8 million
- African-American population in United States 46.8 million

- Native American population in Washington state about 220,000
- African-American population in Washington state is about 411,000

I fully support the Native Americans receiving equitable power they so deserved. Nothing can repay them for the devastation that was caused on their race. My issue is, why doesn't the state of Washington understand how to create equity, equality and economic justice for African-Americans? When it comes to African-Americans we're seen as the race that doesn't deserve true equity and equality. We're being abused even when they say they're creating a equitable program, that's a insult. The State portrays that they don't understand how to create equity and equality for the African-American community, but they continue to forge huge lanes for Native Americans to continue acquiring generational wealth.

Since 1441 Africans were raped, beaten, murdered and brought to Europe as slaves to build the European infrastructure and serve the white British master. In 1609 the British brought the same slavery blueprint to North America that they executed in Europe. The Natives Americans followed the British blueprint by enslaving Africans also in American. The Native Americans fought in the Civil War along side the Confederates to try to ensure that slavery didn't end.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/how-native-american-slaveholders-complicate-trail-tears-narrative-180968339/>

After the slaves arrived in Virginia they were beaten, murdered, castrated, raped and separated from their families. That caused Mental, physical, emotional, and economical damage that has been passed down for generations.

[America's History of Slavery Began Long Before Jamestown](#)

Then the Europeans went to Africa and murdered the people and colonize the African countries while robbing the them of all of their minerals and resources (gold and diamond) until they fiercely fought to gain there freedom and Independence from the European bondage and colonization.

<https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2018-march-2019/africa%E2%80%99s-freedom-struggles-and-universal-declaration-human-rights>

By law Slavery in America ended in 1865, but as we all know it still existed today by way of Inequality, brutality, and economic slavery. We have never received any fairness, compensation or economic justice for the brutal atrocities that we experienced and are still experiencing. We expect and demand real social equity, equality and Economic Justice. We expect the lane to be paved for us in this industry (502 legal cannabis) like the template has been set for the Native Americans in the gaming industry in the state of Washington. For decades in the state of Washington the African-American communities have been targeted abused and arrested at alarming rate. Then In 2013 we were discriminated against and cut out of the 502 legal cannabis industry. That discrimination still exists today. The State and LCB has no intent of TRUE equity and equality for African Americans. However the state has made sure (as they should) that the Native Americans are taken care of.

Now is the time that we are taken care of. Now is time for you to do the right thing. We have paid the price to long and must be a major part of the 502 Cannabis businesses in Washington state. We deserve to have a perpetual equal portion of the state tax money generated by Cannabis for our community. We deserve to have equal amount of licenses that include ALL licenses type. We deserve for the distance restrictions to be adjusted and lifted. We deserve TRUE equity, equality and economic justice. The time is now for us to secure generational wealth and economic stability for our community and children. We will not stop until we receive the True meaning of Equity, Equality, and Economic Justice. We should be enjoying the process but we're unable to because the process is manipulated by certain folk in leadership. We will no longer beg folk to do the right thing. You're either for the community or against the community. There's no in the middle. If your not speaking for the community we will call you out. We understand there are task force members that are in the cannabis industry lobbying and manipulating for special interest groups and their personal agenda. We demand you cease-and-desist your manipulated agendas immediately. The community will call you out and lobby against you perpetually. We demand equality in all licenses types, along with economic justice. The real community has engaged and are United. Community organizations along with a large number of individuals from the community have United our voices and efforts and we are rapidly growing by the day. Pick your side, real social equity, equality and economic justice, or not. Also, your silence means you are the opposition. It's not to late to be on the side of equality. Some of you have stepped up and are taking a vocal position supporting true social equity, equality and economic justice for the African-American community and we are eternally grateful for you taking that brave step. We have a enormous amount of respect and admiration for you. We urge others to follow in there footsteps. Your steps are being recorded while your Legacy is being bookmarked. When your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren open the bookmark to your page, how do you want it to read. Our wish and goal is to work alongside the task force, Lcb, legislation, State Of Washington and the Governor to insure our community the right equity, equality and economic justice. However; that requires the true leaders to step up and lead with a pure heart and the right intentions.

Let's unite and bring true equity, equality and economic Justice to our Community. Let's make Dr King and our ancestors proud while being the right role model for our children.

The time is now!!!!!!!

These are the points that our community stands firm and United on.

- All cannabis licenses are social equity licenses until 2029
- All licenses issued will be social equity licenses until social equity represents 50% of all licenses issued by the state.
- After social equity applicants represent 50% of all licenses in the state, 50% of all licenses new licenses issued are social equity licenses. Perpetual
- 300 new social equity retail licenses through 2029
- 50% of State cannabis taxes issued to the African American community for the community investment program, Perpetual.
- All new social equity awardees receive up to a \$300,000 grant. Perpetual
- Lift the state retail license cap to 860 for the 300 new social equity licenses only.
- State Open up 200 producer licenses for social equity applicants (Through 2029)
- State Opens up 200 processing for social equity applicants (Through 2029)

- Distance changes for retail stores. All distance restrictions and changes are perpetual for social equity retail recipients only.
- A. Elementary or secondary school (500)
- B. Childcare (250).
- C. Public parks, (remove)
- D. Public transit center (remove)
- E. Library (remove)
- F. Game Arcade (remove)
- Bring 50% of the state license total to social equity licenses. Retail, producers, processors, testing labs and all future license types in 502 cannabis. All licenses issued have to be social equity licenses until social equity represents 50% of total license issued by the state of Washington. After that has been achieved, the social equity licenses have to represent 50% of all new licenses issued.
 - Social Equity licensee development Fund: \$30 million biannually for new licensees to receive up to \$300,000 each based on licenses type. The \$300,000 is perpetual. \$15,000,000 biannually available for low interest loans.
 - Technical assistance Grant: 1,100,000 grant remains

Jim Buchanan
 Buchanan-management.com
Jimb@buchanan-management.com

To: the Washington State Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force

My name is Rev. Aaron Williams. I am writing this letter to show my full support and express the "fierce urgency of now" as to how extremely important for the Task Force and legislators to incorporate the changes we want made to E2SHB 2870. The Black Community has been waiting too long for America to do right when it comes to economic justice and racial equality. I have been a part of the Black Community in Seattle for 13 years and after having served as a Co-Chair on Seattle Community Police Commission for several years and former Senior Pastor of the Historic Mount Zion Baptist Church. It has become obvious to me and so many others in the Black Community that the white power structure in Seattle and Washington State continues to give us economic crumbs to keep us quiet, but never a real piece of the economic pie. In order for the Black Community to build an economic infrastructure and a lasting legacy for generations to come, we must act now on E2SHB 2870.

There's a lot of social and historical trauma that has been inflicted on men and women of African descent in America, but we are a resilient people. We continue to strive and survive as a people. Our Black owned businesses would greatly benefit from the Social Equity in Cannabis program.

It would have a positive economic ripple effect and would result in steady streams of income and jobs for Black and Brown people. After having attended a few of the Social Equity Workgroup Board meetings on Zoom and listened in on some of the conversations, it's very easy to talk about an issue and come up with solutions and proposals, but it's time to follow through and make economic justice a reality for the Black Community. Let us not continue to suffer from a case of "Paralysis by Analysis", which has been the case of so many well intentioned meetings and task force groups that I have attended in the past. We must act now.

I am in full support of the following suggestions that the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force and the community has laid out below. E2SHB 2870:

- All cannabis licenses are social equity licenses until 2029
- After 2029, 50% of all licenses issued are social equity licenses, perpetual.
- 300 new social equity retail licenses through 2029
- 50% of State cannabis taxes issued to the community investment program, perpetual.
- All new social equity awardees receive up to \$300,000 grant, perpetual.
- Lift the state retail license cap to 860 for the 300 new social equity licenses only
- Distance changes from retail entity for social equity recipients:
 - a) elementary or secondary schools (500)
 - b) child care (250)
 - c) public parks (remove)
 - d) playgrounds (remove)
 - e) public transit center (remove)
 - f) library (remove)
 - g) game arcade (remove)All perpetual for social equity retail recipients
- Bring all license types to 50% social equity licenses
- All future license types in 502 cannabis have to be issued to social equity applicants until social equity represents 50% of license type. After that has been achieved, the social equity licenses have to represent 50% of all new licenses issued
- Social equity licensee development fund:

- \$30 million biannually for new licensees to receive up to \$300,000 each based on license type. Up to \$300,000 is perpetual for all new social equity license holders based on license type.
- \$15,000,000 biannually available for low interest loans
- Technical assistance grant: \$1,100,000 grant remains
- 100 producers social equity licenses through 2029
- 100 processor social equity licenses through 2029

This is a golden opportunity for the State of Washington to live up to the true ideals of the United States of America, and to help build a lasting economic legacy for the Black Community in Washington State. We will not settle for anything less than what we are fully demanding in E2SHB 2870.

Justice and Peace,

Rev. Aaron Williams

To Washington State Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force:

It is well documented that Washington state has a long, egregious history of systemic racism and economic travesty towards the African American citizens. The current trajectory of the cannabis equity task force, including the use of selected African Americans that are not rooted in nor accountable to the impacted neighborhoods as a face of ineffective policy recommendations threatens to further injustice and economic marginalization in the name of 'equity'.

Our organization, along with other community organizations, have been following the Washington State social equity in cannabis process and we have found that the leadership is inappropriate and influenced to not allow an equitable program and for the right recommendations to be submitted .

Furthermore, we are also concerned that the process has been disrespectful and abusive towards our people, perpetuating a process that marginalizes the voice of the very community that these policies are supposed to be impacting. We will not allow this to continue.

We have heard the demands for true equity loud and clear from our community and supporters, and we are actively engaged to ensure that equity, equality and economic justice happens.

Along with many others, we are ready to fight as a united front to ensure that the right recommendations are submitted.

The points that we expect to be recommended include:

-
-
- Bring all license types to 50% social equity licenses. All future license types in 502 cannabis
- have to be issued to social equity applicants until social equity represents 50% of license type. After that has been achieved, the social equity licenses have to represent 50% of all new licenses issued.
-
-
-
- \$15,000,000 biannually available for low interest loans.
-
-
-
- 300 new social equity retail licenses through 2029
-
-
-
- 50% of State cannabis taxes issued to the community investment program. Perpetual.
-
-
-
- Lift the state retail license cap to 860 for the 300 new social equity licenses only.
-
-
-
- Distance changes from retail entity for social equity recipients to ensure licenses can be placed
- with equitable opportunity
-

Sincerely,

K. Wyking Garrett
37th Legislative District

--

K. Wyking Garrett

Good Morning everyone,

I hope this message finds you happy and well.

Gregory Foster of Cannabis Data was kind enough to provide me with your email addresses so that I can introduce myself and offer my historic experiences on the subject in hopes that they will give you a better perspective on the issue as your deliberations move forward. I have included Micah Sherman in this email at the suggestion of Gregory Foster.

I will be listening in on tomorrow's webinar on the subject and had a brief phone call with Bailey Hirschburg on the matter yesterday.

My relevant experiences on the subject include attendance and participation in a "club house" style meeting space operated by the Cannabis Defense Coalition activist group and 501 c3 dating back to 2009 and to a few years later, experiences with the "World Famous" Cannabis Cafe in Portland Oregon, construction and operation of a Cannabis Patient's sampling and medication room at the Northwest Cannabis Markets in both White Center (King County) and at the Rainier AVE S "Galaxy" location (Seattle) for 4 1/2 years starting in 2012 and most recently the founding, construction and operation of the Northwest Cannabis Club in Portland OR in 2016 which is currently closed due to the pandemic and has over 20,000 paid members.

Briefly and broadly I can tell you that there are many challenges to operating such venues.

The private club model fits well with the prohibition of public consumption while still providing a social space for like minded people to gather, socialize and pursue their common interests in cannabis. This is particularly important for people who live in housing that prohibits consumption or travelers and tourists away from home.

I have found the club model appeals to many who live in smaller accommodations without the space to properly socialize and entertain larger numbers of friends and family whether their occupancy agreements allow consumption or not.

Such spaces also provide opportunities for educational presentations, events such as comedy, music and trade presentations.

Such spaces sell packaged food and beverages, but would be better served and made more viable if they could provide fresh food restaurant style to their members or for delivery.

None of these venues serve alcohol.

Although my personal belief is that alcohol and cannabis are often enjoyed responsibly together, it is too soon to mix the two under one roof until these venues have established a record as responsible businesses with good reputations in the areas where they are located.

In the case of the NWCC I can knowingly state that not one cannabis DUI resulted from its daily operation 7 days a week from noon to midnight, although the building it occupies was once hit by a drunk driver about an hour after closing one night.

I personally believe that such venues should be able to offer cannabis for purchase, but expect there would be some push back from existing retailers.

For this reason my suggestion would be to limit sales to small serving sizes to be consumed on the premises.

What I have written here is just a glimpse into the perspective I can offer the Work Group on this subject.

Please consider me a resource and feel free to reach out at any time as the need or desire arises.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Don Skakie
Founder Homegrow Washington
Co-author of HB 1019 (Homegrow bill 2021-22)
425-572-0899
homegrowwashington.com

Dear WSBOH - I am forwarding to you the NAACP's initial response to E2SHB 2870, creating a **social equity** in cannabis program and the current work being done in the Cannabis task force.

Please make this part of the record for the September 14, 2021 Cannabis Task Force proposals meeting.

Darrell Powell
Vice President State Wide initiatives
NAACP Alaska Oregon Washington State Area Conference