

Date: _____

La Plata County Board of County Commissioners
1101 E. 2nd Ave
Durango, CO 81301

Durango City Council Members
949 E. 2nd Ave.
Durango, CO 81301

Re: *Opposition to Proposed Ballot Initiative on Increasing Taxation of the Marijuana Industry*

Dear County Commissioners and City Council Members:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed ballot initiatives related to both the excise tax on marijuana cultivation facilities and the special sales tax on the sale of retail marijuana. First, I would like to address why I am against placing such initiative on the ballot.

I feel strongly that history has shown that placing such a proposal on the ballot will likely result in a vote in favor of the tax. It is common knowledge that voters are likely to vote in favor of a tax if the burden of that tax is placed on someone else, in this case, the marijuana industry. In addition, I feel that it will be difficult and unfair for the marijuana industry to have to explain to the voters why the tax is inappropriate and overly burdensome for the industry.

I am also against the proposed tax for several reasons, including, but not limited to:

- the marijuana industry is already taxed at an extremely high rate at the federal, state and local level;
- it is unfair to tax one industry for projects that benefit all residents;
- the marijuana industry has brought many benefits to La Plata County and the City of Durango, and adding taxes will inhibit the industries' growth and employment opportunities; and
- the black market is still strong and thriving in Colorado, and increasing the cost of legal marijuana will only drive more consumers to the black market.

Given the information provided above, I strongly encourage both the City and the County to immediately stop any initiatives to increase taxes on the marijuana industry.

Name:

Address:
