



City of Tacoma

City Council

Speaker Laurie Jinkins
339C Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

Representative Jake Fey
415 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
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Senator Yasmin Trudeau
227 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40427
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Representative Mar Leavitt
332 John L. O'Brien Building
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Representative Dan Bronoske
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Senator T'wina Nobles
416 Legislative Building
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Representative Melanie Morgan
417 John L. O'Brien Building
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Representative Sharlett Mena
319 John L. O'Brien Building
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Senator Steve Conway
241 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40429
Olympia, WA 98504

April 11, 2023

Dear Legislators,

The Tacoma City Council would like to express our strong support for E2SSB 5080 and thank you for your work to pass the bill this session. We believe the bill's changes to the Cannabis Social Equity Program will help end the disproportionate and negative consequences communities of color have

faced for using or selling cannabis. We are working hard in Tacoma to fight for social and economic equity in our communities and we know you share our mission. E2SSB 5080 presents an opportunity for all of us to make tangible and durable progress.

Retail cannabis is a multi-million dollar industry in Washington State. In Pierce County alone, the industry generated \$170 million in sales in Fiscal Year 2022. In the past 9 years, it has generated almost \$1 billion in tax revenue across the state. This industry drives wealth building, economic opportunity, and entrepreneurship—and communities of color must be included equitably in these opportunities. E2SSB 5080 will ensure there is parity in the licensing system for producers and retailers, giving everyone an equal shot at advancing in the retail cannabis industry.

Tacoma is committed to upending the historical patterns of injustice that harm our communities of color. However, we cannot uproot social and economic disparities alone. We need the help of our state partners. Thank you for your continued support to send the bill to the Governor for signature so that we can fight for inclusion and equity together and ensure the Washington's future is one where all communities thrive. Thank you for your support and partnership.

Sincerely,

[City Council Member signatures to be added pending approval]