



City of Tacoma

City Council

April 5, 2023

Dear Representatives,

The Tacoma City Council would like to express our strong support for E2SSB 5080. 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. While we would like to see more ability for the City to provide input into the location of licenses to ensure there is not an over-concentration in low-opportunity areas, we fully support passage of this bill. Please join us in supporting E2SSB 5080 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 consideration and partnership.

Sincerely,

[City Council Member signatures to be added pending approval]