



CITY of LAGUNA NIGUEL

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CITY COUNCIL

Mayor John Mark Jennings
Mayor Pro Tem Laurie Davies
Council Member Elaine Gennawey
Council Member Fred Minagar
Council Member Sandy Rains

March 8, 2019

The Honorable Ken Cooley
California State Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0008

RE: Support of A.B. 1530

Dear Assembly Member Cooley,

On behalf of the City of Laguna Niguel, I am writing to express our support for your bill, A.B. 1530, relating to local jurisdiction restrictions on cannabis delivery. This legislation restores the local regulatory authority that cities were guaranteed through the passage of Proposition 64. Laguna Niguel is appreciative and encouraged by your proactive approach to restoring and enhancing local control, rather than diminishing it.

On October 30, 2018, the City of Laguna Niguel sent a letter to Lori Ajax, Chief of the Bureau of Cannabis Control (BCC) to express our opposition to the BCC's proposed regulations which removed limitations on cannabis deliveries, created an unrealistic timeline for adequate local government review, and lessened the ability for cities to regulate cannabis to reflect local needs and wants. Despite opposition from Laguna Niguel, numerous other cities, and the League of California Cities, the Bureau's regulation went into effect in January. This blatant disregard for the input of local governments all across California undermines the voters' intent by allowing cannabis delivery in any city in the state regardless of what local regulations may be in place. Furthermore, the Bureau overstepped its regulatory authority by usurping the local regulatory authority bestowed to cities by the California Constitution and created a one-size-fits-all program that deems all cities in California to be alike.

Proposition 64 empowered cities to restrict where cannabis dispensaries or businesses could be located, completely ban cannabis establishments from their jurisdictions, and most importantly reasonably regulate. The Bureau of Cannabis Control's recent actions rid cities of these abilities, but passage of A.B. 1530 would be a step in the right direction towards "righting the ship." We specifically support Section 26090(f) which states "A local jurisdiction may adopt an ordinance or resolution pursuant to Section 26200 that permits, restricts, limits, or bans the delivery of cannabis or cannabis products to a location within its jurisdictional boundaries."

Laguna Niguel takes pride in our ability to keep residents safe and maintain their quality of life. Often, when legislation or regulatory efforts succeed, there are unforeseen consequences and repercussions. If the Bureau's regulations remain intact, there is a risk of a potential rise in crime in our City due to the cash nature of cannabis business transactions. My colleagues and I strive every day to ensure the safety of Laguna Niguel residents and unfortunately, the Bureau is at odds with our local values and may put the safety of our residents at risk.

Laguna Niguel has consistently been and will continue to be opposed to any efforts that undermine local control and local regulatory authority. A.B. 1530 restores our ability to justifiably regulate cannabis deliveries in Laguna Niguel. For that reason, we are proud to express our resounding support for this bill and encourage its passage through the State Assembly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Mark Jennings", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

John Mark Jennings
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Assembly Member Bill Brough
Tony Cardenas, League of California Cities, tcardenas@cacities.org
League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org