

Feb. 6, 2023, Senate Agriculture, Broadband and Rural Development Committee

Dear Committee:

Thank you for reading my comments today.

My concern regards the rule writers and those who are being hired to work at the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM).

What would be the qualifications for those employees? How well educated and experienced will they be in the many varied facets needed to oversee, monitor, regulate and enforce rules regarding this highly addictive, psychoactive drug?

Where will they obtain their training regarding certification, testing and labeling?

Our Coalition (Smart Approaches to Marijuana Minnesota) has been providing testimony at committees and in meetings with legislators. Our group has highly educated doctors and researchers with years and years of experience. Our group has parents and others with strong personal experience.

Will the OCM have access to all the EXPERT testimony that has been presented, not just by our group, but by all the professional groups on all aspects of this topic? Will the rule writers be as qualified as these testifiers?

The question remains: why would the elected representatives of Minnesota want to legalize and commercialize another addictive substance when there is already a widespread and very serious addiction problem throughout our society? Especially at a time when our health and law enforcement resources are stretched? Our system doesn't work well now, doing this will not help!

Legalizing THC will not make it a SAFE drug.

I ask you to vote NO on this bill.

Thanks,

Linda Stanton

Woodbury, MN