



April 7, 2025

Senator Matt Klein
Chair, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
2105 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Klein:

I am writing in support of the proposed Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) provisions in the Commerce omnibus bill. We appreciate the work of the committee to strengthen the cannabis laws in Minnesota. Your consideration of these proposals will support OCM's mission to launch an effective, safe, equitable, and sustained cannabis market.

The inclusion of the Governor's recommended changes to the process for issuing a cannabis testing facility license will support a timely market launch and prioritize health and safety of the market. The proposal would alleviate a barrier to entry for testing facilities that are otherwise equipped to conduct cannabis testing effectively, lowering the risk of a testing bottleneck that might slow market launch.

Additionally, the minor clarifying change to the criteria for individuals to be considered a social equity applicant will ensure that OCM continues implementing the law in line with the vision of the original cannabis legislation. The provision that extends the availability of CanRenew's first year of funds beyond the 2024-25 biennium will ensure the full amount appropriated can be invested into the community as the program is established, accountability metrics are designed, and outreach is conducted.

Finally, the support for OCM's operating budget request will help cover expected growth in employee compensation and insurance, rents, IT services, and other operating costs. Coupled with carryforward authority included in the Governor's state government budget recommendations, this support will enable OCM to maintain current levels of service for Minnesotans.

We look forward to continued discussion and partnership with the committee. Thank you for your leadership and attention to these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Eric Taubel'.

Eric Taubel, Interim Director