



February 19, 2025

Chair Rest and Members of the Taxes Committee,

Americans for Prosperity is the nation's premier grassroots organization, a community of millions of concerned citizens advocating for solutions based on proven principles to tackle the country's most critical challenges. We believe freedom and opportunity are the keys to unleashing prosperity for all.

Part of that mission is to dismantle overly bureaucratic barriers within government – and some, like the illicit drug tax – that are quite frankly just silly. That is why I am writing in support of Senate File 209, a bill to repeal this impractical statute.

Since its inception, the tax has generated essentially zero revenue, highlighting the impracticality and futility of taxing illegal substances in addition to being yet another example of the failed War on Drugs.

This tax places an unnecessary burden on law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system, as they are tasked with enforcing a tax on illegal activities. While this statute has rarely, if ever, been utilized by prosecutors in Minnesota, those in other states have used similar laws to increase the charges against individuals accused of drug crimes. We believe in reducing the overreach of government, not creating “gotcha” statutes that can be weaponized against individuals in a court of law.

Having this kind of law on the books also diverts valuable resources away from more pressing issues and undermines public trust in our government's ability to prioritize effectively.

Repealing this tax is a common-sense solution that will reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and allow law enforcement and prosecutors to focus on the real issues at hand. I urge you to support the repeal of Minnesota's tax on illicit drugs and work toward more effective solutions to address substance use and abuse in our state.

Sincerely,

RaeAnna K. Lee

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