

I am writing to provide written testimony with respect to the Commerce Committee's hearing today regarding HF 600 concerning cannabis legalization in Minnesota. Cannabis prohibition has not prevented a black market from existing in Minnesota. In the 2020, a number of new states joined those that have already legalized cannabis. Minnesota, however, was not among them. It should be.

As more states legalize cannabis, the legal cannabis industry is poised to grow exponentially. In order for Minnesota businesses to participate in this economic growth, it will be necessary to create a regulatory scheme to facilitate legal cannabis in the state. California, Colorado, Washington, Oregon, and Nevada are all examples of states that have managed to legalize cannabis in ways that have maximized cannabis economic opportunities while avoiding negative externalities. They have also opened up a new stream of tax revenue while at the same time reducing the racial inequality of cannabis crimes.

I hope you will consider supporting HF 600.

Sincerely,

Paul Banker