



June 17, 2019

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
State of New York
Executive Chamber
The Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Temporary President & Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Room 330, State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12247

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Speaker
New York State Assembly
932 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248

RE: Legalization of Recreational Marijuana

Dear Governor Cuomo, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Heastie:

On behalf of the Capital Region Chamber, representing 2,400 businesses and organizations from throughout the Capital Region that employ more than 150,000 area residents, I would greatly appreciate it if you would consider the Chamber's perspective regarding the above referenced proposal as you conclude the 2019 Legislative Session.

The Chamber has not taken a position on the proposal to legalize recreational marijuana. However, the Chamber strongly opposes the inclusion of public policy issues, such as a proposal to legalize recreational marijuana, as part of end of session negotiations or as part of a "big ugly" bill. Substantive policy issues should be submitted as stand-alone bills, thoughtfully reviewed, debated and subject to public hearings and public comment over an extensive period of time. Consideration of such policy issues should not occur during the final days of the legislative session as it does not allow for the proper engagement of the public and all stakeholders.

As you are aware, several concerns regarding the proposal to legalize recreational marijuana have been raised by many stakeholders, including members of the business community. The Chamber respectfully requests that you refrain from the consideration of the proposal to legalize recreational marijuana during end of session negotiations.

Thank you for your consideration of the Chamber's perspective on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. O'Connor
Vice President, Government Relations

cc: Members of the New York State Legislature

At the Center of New York's Tech Valley
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