



March 29, 2022

The Honorable Thurston Smith
California State Assembly
1021 O St., Room 4320
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1725 (Smith) – Criminal Penalties for Illegal Cultivation of Cannabis – As Introduced January 27, 2022 – Support

Dear Assemblymember Smith,

On behalf of Homestead valley Community Council, I write in support for AB 1725, legislation that will amend Health & Safety Code 11358 to restore felony penalties for illicit marijuana cultivation.

When voters enacted Proposition 64 to legalize recreational cannabis, they did so with the assumption that the state would balance consumer desire and public safety. Unfortunately, penalties for illegal cannabis activity were reduced before the legal market was firmly established. As a result, California has had a massive increase in unlicensed growers operating illegal cannabis farms across the rural and wilderness areas of the state. State law should provide heavier penalties to deter major illegal cannabis production that undermine the legal cannabis market and undercut law-abiding businesses and entrepreneurs.

AB 1725 restores the criminal penalty for growing marijuana illegally to pre-Prop 64 felony, with jail times of up to 3 years. This creates a better public safety environment to allow these criminal operations to be better addressed.

For the above reasons, we are pleased to support AB 1725.

Sincerely,

Jim Harvey
President, Homestead Valley Community Council
On behalf of HVCC