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Legal Cannabis Industry Responds to AG Sessions

State tax revenue from Washington's legal marketplace nears \$1 billion

More than 10,000 people employed in Washington's legal marketplace

WASHINGTON – Today the Washington CannaBusiness Association (WACA), representing Washington's regulated cannabis producers, processors and retailers, released the following statement in response to news stories regarding Attorney General Sessions' assertions on the Cole Memorandum. The Cole Memorandum was President Obama's federal guidance for non-intervention in legal cannabis marketplaces in states across the country.

- Following this week's opening of California's legal marketplace, more than 60% of Americans have access to legal cannabis products
- A strong majority of Americans support legal cannabis marketplaces, with 64% offering their support in an October 2017 Gallup Poll.
- According to a study conducted by the Washington State Institute of Public Policy, more than 10,000 people are employed in the legal marketplace in our state as of 2016
- Washington's legal industry has served as a national model in its work to support a safe, quality-controlled and well-regulated marketplace committed to keeping marijuana out of the hands of minors.

"Washington state voters overwhelmingly approved the creation of a legal marketplace in 2012," said **Andy Brassington, Chief Financial Officer for licensed processor Evergreen Herbal in Seattle**. "The reality is that individual states across the country have given voters the choice on marijuana and the momentum toward increased legalization is escalating. The result is a highly-regulated, voter-approved marketplace that is delivering economic benefits to state coffers in the hundreds of millions and innovation in the industry benefiting medical patients and non-patient alike. It is unfortunate that Attorney General Sessions would attempt to supersede state's rights, ignoring public opinion, and the values of many who would protect individual liberties. Legal cannabis is by far safer and superior to allowing black markets to flourish, supporting public safety in our communities and significant tax revenue for our state's schools, roads and other important priorities."

Brassington continued: “We thank our elected leaders in Washington – republicans and democrats – for standing up for the will of the voters in our state and defending our legal and safer marketplace against misguided and uninformed intervention by Attorney General Sessions.”

The *Puget Sound Business Journal* recently awarded Evergreen Herbal as the only cannabis company to earn a spot on the paper’s annual 100 Fastest Growing Companies List, ranking as #27.

About Washington CannaBusiness Association

Washington CannaBusiness Association solely represents Washington’s licensed and regulated cannabis businesses and provides its members with general support and representation before regulatory agencies and the legislature. As an association of cannabis producers, processors and retailers who have gathered to promote the private cannabis industry created by Initiative 502 and our member companies, our mission is to advocate on behalf of our member companies in the legislative, regulatory, legal and public policy arenas.

Learn more about Washington CannaBusiness Association by visiting our website at <http://www.wacannabusiness.org>

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