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## **Cannabis Association Statement on Governor Inslee's Executive Order Concerning Vaping Products**

*Regulated cannabis industry reiterates commitment to uphold public health and safety*

**WASHINGTON** – Today the Washington CannaBusiness Association (WACA) released the following statement by Executive Director Vicki Christophersen regarding Governor Jay Inslee's Executive Order concerning vaping products in Washington. The following statement follows extensive collaboration by WACA with the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB) on an emergency rule that will further strengthen public health protections that are related to cannabis products.

"The top priority of regulated cannabis license-holders is to uphold all the safeguards in place to protect public safety," **said Vicki Christophersen, executive director of the Washington CannaBusiness Association.** "That is why we fully support the urgency with which Governor Inslee, Washington's Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control are acting to identify any and all risks to consumer safety resulting from vaping-related illness. We concur with actions ordered that reflect the rigor necessary to find the problem, address it, and implement solutions that prioritize public health. The policies we support are also actionable by affected business owners and their employees, who may or may not unwittingly offer any product which has caused harm, but who are struggling nonetheless against the unknown threat."

**Regarding the Governor's announcement of a ban on flavored vaping products, Christophersen said that** "we support all scientifically-driven responses to discover and eliminate the cause of vaping-related illness, so while we do not believe that the Governor's announcement of a total ban is based on any investigative results that have been publicly available, we do respect the Governor's focus on public safety as the motivation for his decision to issue this temporary ban."

**Christophersen continued, saying that** "the vacuum caused by a lack of real information and understandable fear and concern for public safety must be addressed with rigorous and accurate data, evaluation and analysis. By requiring a full description of product components

and oil ingredients, the Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and others who are investigating the cause (or causes) of vaping-related illnesses will have the ability to leave no stone unturned.”

When the first cases of illness related to vaping products were announced in Washington earlier this month, WACA began collaborating with the WSLCB to respond to concerns saying that, “the top priority of the regulated cannabis industry in Washington State is to uphold public safety while working to keep cannabis away from kids. We stand ready as an industry to provide any information as needed to those investigating this issue and would swiftly comply with any further direction given by our regulators concerning vape products.”

### **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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