

New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission
Public In-Writing Comments
Public Meeting: April 3rd, 2025

Full Name	Meeting Date	Comment
John A Kennette	April 3 rd , 2025	Baked By The River: safe consumption location It should be within the rights of both the business and the consumer to sample AND have a place to safely consume the product. Furthermore this shouldn't count as a law broken, and should be seen as a way to better define the needs to maintain and uphold these new laws.
Robert Devine	April 3 rd , 2025	I think it is horrible you are planning to possibly fine Baked By the River dispensary for hosting a community based event. The cannabis community deserves the ability to gather and sample products from one another. Fining a dispensary for simply bringing the community together is a horrible decision and not something the cannabis consumers of NJ want. We want more events where we can be a community together in a safe space instead of being stuck in the shadows like we have been for years.
Joseph Curcio	April 3 rd , 2025	help our dispensaries overcome the nonsense
Rowan Bellinger	April 3 rd , 2025	Baked by the River does amazing work to support many different groups of people. They provide a SAFE community and area for people to learn and properly medicate themselves for their needs. Their intentions are pure and they truly have done so much for people who are struggling or who would like to learn safely how to use Medical and recreational cannabis to improve their mental and physical health. Their community based events are important to the future of safety surrounding cannabis use. I would suggest backing them up in their amazing efforts rather than trying to take them down. Education = safety!
Karen Kennedy	April 3 rd , 2025	Baked by the River is an asset to the community. Living in chronic pain and being able to attend events for cannabis education and community is invaluable to me.
Rebecca Wolf	April 3 rd , 2025	I want to take a moment to show my support for Baked by the River in Lambertville. They have been amazing partners to the city, provide education, and help to have safe access to cannabis in NJ. They have lifted up artists, restaurants, and so many other creatives through their events and advocacy. Please allow Baked by the River to continue the amazing work they do and support the positivity they bring to the cannabis community.
Stephanie Leone	April 3 rd , 2025	The folks at Baked by the River in Lambertville are kind, hardworking, and thoughtful members of our community. When I moved to town, they were the first people to talk to me, welcome me, and invite me to gatherings so I could meet other people. When my 75 year old aunt was

		<p>in excruciating pain after a shoulder replacement — as a recovering smoker and alcoholic she is wary of addictive painkillers — I brought her a product from Baked by the River, which not only relaxed her pain but did not become another substance to addict her. The community gatherings that they host are among some of the only events that attract people of all ages, genders, and interests. Importantly, they bring so much business to this town we all love so much. I urge you to reconsider the issued violation and allow Baked to get back to their business.</p> <p>Stephanie Leone, MFA + Professor of Writing, City University of New York</p>
Mylicent Felder	April 3 rd , 2025	I am writing to support Baked by the River, and the availability of safe consumption events. This is important to medical patients in addition to educating cannabis users.
Anne Walters	April 3 rd , 2025	Baked by the river dispensary should not be facing a fine or any other disciplinary action for hosting a community event.
Chelsea Ortega	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>Dear New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission,</p> <p>We respectfully urge the Commission to consider allowing cannabis dispensaries in New Jersey to host events on their premises. Such events can serve as valuable opportunities for education, community engagement, and responsible consumption. By providing a controlled and regulated environment, dispensaries can offer consumers an opportunity to learn more about cannabis products, safety guidelines, and legal considerations. Furthermore, hosting events can help foster a deeper sense of connection between dispensaries and their local communities, promoting a positive and informed culture surrounding cannabis use. We believe that allowing these events would not only benefit the businesses but also contribute to the state's continued commitment to safe, legal, and responsible cannabis practices.</p> <p>Sincerely, Chelsea Ortega</p>
Joseph Nygard	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>The same people who are entrusted to cultivate, test, package and distribute our cannabis should be entrusted to provide a forum where the cannabis may be sampled by the public. This is the same as any wine or food tasting event.</p> <p>The NJ cannabis industry is losing money and customers because people do not trust a product that 1. already has a bad rap from unclean test results and 2. they cannot see, smell or sample beforehand. Nobody buys produce that they cant at least visually inspect before purchasing.</p> <p>Allowing this type of event to proceed would add much-needed legitimacy to our state's cannabis industry.</p>
Rachael West	April 3 rd , 2025	I am very disappointed in the severity of this situation associated with Baked By the River and the NJ-CRC. These practices happen ALL across NJ! The community deserves safe places to consume, as well as seeing a

		great example of how cannabis situations should be handled within the state of NJ. If we don't have the opportunity to consume safely, these situations will only get worse while cannabis is legal. Thank you for your time.
Rachael Fink	April 3 rd , 2025	I support Baked by the River and their safe consumption practices and events. Do not drag them through the mud!!! They deserve to operate as is with safe education and sales.
Christian Ribeiro	April 3 rd , 2025	Hosting these events is essential for promoting safe consumption, ensuring proper sanitation, and providing educational opportunities. They create welcoming spaces for community members to engage with cannabis in a responsible manner. Allowing dispensaries to participate in these activities not only strengthens their positive impact but also fosters a sense of community. Conversely, restricting their ability to engage in such events hinders progress and limits opportunities for responsible education and community engagement.
Luanne Ferragine	April 3 rd , 2025	I am writing in regards to Baked By The River. They are a reputable company and are well supported and loved in our river community. We love having them here.
Ericka Padilla-Toro	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>Dear Members of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission,</p> <p>I am writing in strong support of Baked by the River, a licensed dispensary in Lambertville, NJ, which is currently facing a violation notice for hosting a community event. This situation raises broader concerns about the ability of licensed operators to engage in standard industry practices, practices that already occur throughout New Jersey without penalty.</p> <p>Baked by the River has been an upstanding member of the cannabis community, prioritizing education, consumer safety, and responsible access. Penalizing them for fostering community engagement and education is not only unjust but also inconsistent with the goals of a thriving, equitable cannabis market.</p> <p>This issue extends beyond Baked by the River. As an industry, we are advocating for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Product sampling between cultivators, manufacturers, and retailers to ensure quality control and effective business relationships. - The ability for customers to sample before purchasing, just as consumers do in other regulated industries like alcohol. - Safe, consumption friendly events that allow adults to engage with legal cannabis in a responsible, controlled environment. <p>These practices are already happening across New Jersey. No licensee should fear retribution for engaging in them. Instead of punishing businesses that are working to elevate and normalize the industry, we should be creating clear pathways for compliant and responsible events that benefit consumers, businesses, and the market as a whole.</p>

		<p>I urge the NJ-CRC to reconsider any penalties against Baked by the River and to work with the industry to establish clear, fair regulations that allow for community-driven, safe cannabis experiences.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
Emily Mills	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>Baked by the River is more than a dispensary. It's a beacon for community, health, togetherness, and action. It's a place of joy, of recovery, of finding and learning better ways to be in communication with each other. It's a rare and precious space- please find ways to work with instead of against this beautiful organization to find common ground!</p>
Kayla Smith	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>With the recent fine on baked by the river for an offsite consumption event, it makes me wonder -what is the purpose of the NJ CRC? To protect consumers? To protect dispensary owners? Or, to profit off of a growing industry- you clearly deem extremely profitable. How do these extremely strict guidelines help anyone but you profit even more from taxes and fines. How does this help the people or the business you are meant to protect. I am a consumer. I am also an observer. Among consumers I feel lingering fear and confusion around weed, stemming from such strict rigidness. Alcohol in NJ is not regulating nearly as much as weed, and alcohol is much more damaging to the health of people and easier to be abused. Consumers should be able to try products in an environment where they feel comfortable, where they can see what works for them, where they can smell and see the product. Otherwise weed feels like a taboo, like a strict parent you make consumers and dispensaries feel shame - which leads to lack of knowledge and misuse. I'm sure you know this though, and thats why you want to charge people to host consumption events. Your greed will run the cannabis industry into the ground and the very thing you cling to like a parasite - feeding off of it, and sucking the life out it- will die; and a plant with extreme medicinal benefits meant to help people - will only be abused and misused by consumers. As a consumer I am asking you to rescind the fine for baked by the river for hosting a consumption event. Give guidelines to dispensaries on how to host a consumption event - making sure consumers and dispensaries are informed and protected but please do not use this as a way to try to make more money. Think about the people you are MEANT to protect and serve.</p>
Alex Adams	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>Gifting paid for cannabis through the proper channels should not be punishable! When a cultivator, extractor or dispensary goes through the appropriate avenues of going thru metrc to get penny product paid out for "gifting" purposes when someone gives a follow on Instagram or wins it off a prize wheel or we genuinely want to GIVE them FREEE Cannabis is our prerogative and is not dispensing due to the fact it was already paid for product and is now OURS to do whatever we see fit with it as long as there's no financial exchange! Now I understand not ALL companies are following these avenues, but the CRC should not chastize those who are doing their best to promote community and bring a new wave of</p>

		experiences to the consumers of NJ while balancing both safety of consumers and vendors and following your rules of "GIFTING" and "safe consumption" and most events provide food, beverages, places to sit, and entertainment for you to stay a while so you don't consume and immediately drive under the influence!
Leslie Fruehwald	April 3 rd , 2025	Baked by the River has provided a safe and welcoming environment that is solely missing from every other dispensary I have ever visited. No other dispensary has taken the time to talk and listen and genuinely help. They have not only provided the product that I am looking for but also a safe community built on respect and decency.
Ava DiBartolome	April 3 rd , 2025	Baked by the river is one of the only dispensaries in New Jersey that cares about the quality of the plant. One of the only dispensaries in New Jersey who's mission is cannabis education and community. They host events to promote education and give back to those in need. They even host events to help assault survivors access cannabis as medicine. How can you persecute their business for hosting an event that wasn't on their property? If the issue is about consumption, your guidelines clearly state no consumption on site which they haven't done. As someone who has worked several jobs in this industry, I have attended several events not affiliated with Baked by the River. Since when is hosting a community event against the rules? Events are part of our industry. Why go after a small business when the large corporations in this state are bringing moldy, remediated product to the marketplace that are being willingly sold to medical patients without proper access to their COAs and history of remediation? There are bigger issues in this market that need attention. Going after a small business focused on education and community outreach is a waste of time and shows the clear biases and injustices that prevail in our industry.
Amanda Penque	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>I strongly believe that community events organized by licensed recreational dispensaries should be not only permitted but actively encouraged. These events play a vital role in fostering safe consumption, education, and building connections within the cannabis industry and beyond. They are essential for promoting safe and responsible use, providing valuable business-to-business networking opportunities, and uniting the community at large.</p> <p>Supporting small businesses and hosting educational and tasting events is crucial to the continued growth and success of this industry. Rather than penalizing dispensaries for facilitating these important gatherings, I urge you to consider the broader benefits they bring to the community. These events provide a platform for education and safe consumption, allowing the public to engage in a responsible and informed manner.</p> <p>I respectfully encourage the CRC to focus on constructive, supportive actions that empower both businesses and consumers. It is vital for the progression of the industry to put trust in the local community and allow for these events to continue. It is time to move forward and shift away from an approach that solely seeks problems and financial penalties.</p>

Dale Johnston	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>Dear Cannabis Regulatory Commission,</p> <p>I would like to advocate for the consideration of product sampling opportunities between retailers, cultivators, and manufacturers. Such initiatives would empower consumers to experience safe and responsible consumption in a regulated, community-focused environment. Currently, many fear the potential legal risks or loopholes surrounding these types of events, which hinders the ability to enjoy the plant in a positive, connected setting.</p> <p>Collaboration between regulated markets and legacy markets is key to bridging the divide, and by working together, we can demonstrate shared goals and values. By permitting and encouraging these types of collaborative events, we foster a culture of openness, education, and trust among consumers, retailers, and producers.</p> <p>Retailers like Baked by the River, who seek to eliminate fear and encourage responsible consumption within their communities, should not be penalized for their efforts. Their initiative to build trust with their customer base and connect with people over the shared enjoyment of cannabis is commendable, not something that should be scrutinized due to the complexities of existing guidelines. We should encourage such efforts rather than hinder them.</p> <p>I urge the Commission to consider creating a framework that supports safe, regulated sampling and community-driven experiences that foster education, collaboration, and an inclusive cannabis culture.</p> <p>Sincerely, Dale Johnston</p>
Natalie Stasky	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>Baked by the River is the NJ CRC biggest alliance. Other states markets are flourishing (NY, ME). Unfortunately, from the strict guidelines of the NJ CRC, it is stunting the cultural and economic growth of legal cannabis. Baked by the River respects the cannabis culture and the community while abiding these strict guidelines. The CRC can not erase our existence and needs. Let Baked by the River be!</p>
Melody Brown	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>I a New Jersey resident and longtime medical cannabis user as well as supporter of baked by the river and absolutely outraged by the actions of the NJCRC. This is not just any Dispensary. You should be prepared for quite an outcome on Thursday because we are not going out without a fight. A peaceful loud talkative one</p>
Robert Menschner	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>I am writing in defense of allowing consumption events. Customers should be able to sample product before spending their hard earned money. I am asking for leniency to Baked By the River in regard to their violation for a community event.</p>
Kristen Pappert	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>Baked is a great space and a welcomed part of the community. Their outreach programs are needed and supported by a large number of the</p>

		surrounding populous. They aim for support , and education and as far as I've seen , have accomplished this.
Shavon Peterson	April 3 rd , 2025	In order for NJ to be legal, cannabis events need to be legal, consumption needs to be legal. We don't want petty legalization just for you to use us for financial gain and no progression. We can go back to the black market for all of that!
Michael Suarez	April 3 rd , 2025	How are supposed to continue to give out knowledge and let the people who consume cannabis understand the product being made? Don't we want it to be clean for people? Don't we want people to trust their local dispensaries and manufactures and cultivations? Why are we setting such strict laws on companies trying to do their best to spread knowledge on cannabis? You make it easier for an illegal drug trafficker to do whatever they please in the state. But us legal brands? When will the stigma stop? WHEN WILL WE BE ABLE TO BE FREE
Anna Kumor	April 3 rd , 2025	I am an NJMMP patient I love the people over at Baked by the River. They are true legacy caretakers that have helped a lot of people when there was a lot of risk. There aren't many that deserve to succeed in this industry more than them. What they got in trouble for was sampling product. Which companies big and small do at events and inside of our dispensaries. It is absolutely ridiculous and sets a terrible precedent that any of our dispensaries could get in trouble for penning products to associates or customers to try. As a NJMMP patient who suffers from glaucoma and cannot live without the plant. We were supposed to be prioritized with access to our medicine, instead we are so limited as a patient that we are being forced to recreation. As a disabled on fixed income medical patient who already feels medical patients have been abandoned completely and I feel this is wrong for what is being done to Baked By The River.
Kay Steele	April 3 rd , 2025	Baked by the river should not be fined for community service
Emily Hargrave	April 3 rd , 2025	I have had the privilege of knowing Jesse Marie and Cord, the owners of Baked by the River, for over three years. Their passion and drive sets them apart from other dispensaries and is one of the things that I respect about them most. They have strived to create a community based on education, harm reduction, and quality cannabis. I had the pleasure of working for them; it was more than just a job. It was a community of like minded individuals who are unified through love of cannabis. They partake in the This is Jane Project, providing survivors of trauma with access to free cannabis products. Baked by the River provides their community with a safe space, for everyone.
Dharshini Casinathrn	April 3 rd , 2025	I'm writing regarding the alleged violation by Baked by the River. As members of New Jersey's emerging cannabis industry, we have a

		<p>responsibility not only to comply with regulations but to also help shape them in ways that support safe, informed access for consumers.</p> <p>Providing non-infused samples is a valuable tool for education—allowing consumers to understand terpene profiles, textures, and aromas before making a purchase. These practices are common in other regulated markets and help drive consumer trust, brand development, and ultimately a stronger, more responsible marketplace.</p> <p>While we understand the current prohibition on not selling food, we believe there’s a meaningful distinction between hospitality and retail food service. Educational sampling does not pose the same risks and, if done thoughtfully, aligns with the CRC’s mission to promote public health and consumer safety.</p> <p>We urge the CRC to consider the role educational sampling plays in the growth of this industry. Baked by the River and other operators committed to responsible practices should be encouraged—not penalized—for raising the standard of consumer engagement.</p> <p>Thank you Dharshini Casinathen, President of Joyleaf</p>
Jessica Schuyler	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>Cord and Jesse are pillars and activists of our local community. I highly consider them to be thoughtful, self aware, generous, mentors, leaders. The list goes on. I am humbled to co-exist right across the river from their beautiful dispensary which facilitates healing medicine to many. They have my support as a friend, community member and fellow local business owner.</p>
Chrissie Jo Magness	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>Please reconsider the state of New Jerseys position on this matter. No fines or ‘punishment’ should be brought against Baked By The River.</p>
Kit Lillia	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>Make safe consumption spaces legal!!! there is no reason consumption should be so restrictive in the state! Safe spaces to use cannabis are part of cannabis culture and community.</p>
Nathalie M	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>The CRC needs to do better at breaking the stigma and actually helping small business, instead of just helping MSO’s. If you do not consume and are against it, you should not pass YOUR judgement, much less be a part of the council that has let down consumers in this states and every business who hasn’t given them a bribe</p>
Tylor Lavery	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>I am writing in to show my support for Baked by the River. As a consumer, I have always admired the care they have shown for our community. The events they participate in have been incredibly educational, empowering, and truly inspiring. To see them making such a huge impact and creating a welcoming space in this harshly judged community speaks volumes to consumers like myself and I hope to see efforts like this made by all dispensaries as well as encouraged and supported by the CRC in the future.</p>
Ethan Werner	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>It is nonsense that you guys claim to be for the people when you bring up these nonsense fines and punishments for bringing the customers and workers together to mingle make relationships help the community</p>

		grow, while also trying to pass a law that would once again make me nervous and hesitant to buy or even work in this crumbling industry held onto by greedy hands squeezing every last drop of profit for yourself with no concern about betterment, expansion, community. It is a shame what you are doing to baked by the river why punish anyone at all this brings more customers, more money spent on single transactions, and that means you guys will get your money one way or another.
Ashley Graham	April 3 rd , 2025	Baked By The River Has Been Extremely Professional From Opening Day. The Staff Is Amazing. There Aren't Many Spaces That Make You Feel Comfortable and More Than A Customer Or A Dollar Sign. Truly A Gem In Lambertville. Other Dispensaries In The Area Aren't As Intimate or Accepting.
Jonathan Frank	April 3 rd , 2025	Baked by the river continues to stand out, and miles ahead of other dispensaries in the state, for a few simple reasons. They believe in TRANSPARENCY and SAFETY for the consumer which they demonstrate by example. They go above and beyond to curate menus from cultivators who use only the best available tools and technologies paired with established genetics. They chose to get their staff trained multiple times and from multiple trusted sources of knowledge, both corporate and cultural. The event that Baked By The River is being put in the cross hairs for was a tremendous success brining industry, community, and culture together to inspire. How are educated consumers, like myself, supposed to want to support products and services without sampling them, especially when the labs have failed dispensaries and consumers allowing mold and mislabel Ed products on shelves. If the states intentions are to censor consumers from using the best tools for the job to choose products, their own noses, mouth, lungs, brains, and endocannabinoid systems, then they will continue this wild goose chase. But if the state wants to recognize this is a Nexus point in history when the greatest and most powerful change can occur for the greater good, they will dismiss any kind of actions against Baked By The River for providing a legal, safe, and sustainably powered event that also brought commerce and light to a town while inspiring many young men and women to pursue their own small business endeavors in the Garden State.
John Courter	April 3 rd , 2025	I stand with baked by the river in our right to have safe consumption events around the state.
Edwin Francisco	April 3 rd , 2025	I would like the CRC to help dispensaries provide product samples at certain events
Zoey Best	April 3 rd , 2025	I am writing to express support for the local business 'Baked by the River'. I have found they do so much good for this community and beyond it. Truly good neighbors.
Zoey Best	April 3 rd , 2025	I am writing in support for the local business 'Baked by the River'. They are great neighbors and do so much more for the community and county than they need to, because they care.
Evan Manaresi	April 3 rd , 2025	Dear NJ-CRC Commissioners,

		<p>I'm Evan Manaresi, owner and president of Bass River Buds, a microbusiness cannabis cultivator in NJ. This statement is in regards to the sampling requirements and standards in the NJ regulated cannabis industry and specifically Baked by the River's violation notice 205-24. Sampling of product is one of the most important tools we have available in the regulated market. I fail to understand how allowing cultivators, manufacturers and retailers to provide samples of finished products that have moved all the way through the regulated channels of the NJ industry can be risky or harmful in any way.</p> <p>As a small business and a cultivator we have been frequently frustrated by the inability to get samples out of METRC without passing them through a retailer. We have had to sell product to retailers that they haven't been able to try. We have had finished flower that we have not had the chance to smoke but still have to sell to retailers. It is really inconvenient and it puts cultivators (and manufacturers) in a state of dependence on retailers to take product and provide it back as samples so we can provide industry samples to budtenders, inventory managers, owners, our own growers, and consumers.</p> <p>I have been involved with the NJCBA's cultivation subcommittee since we opened and the primary issue that we discuss at every meeting (and I have heard similar concerns from the manufacturers committee) is product sampling and the restrictive nature of NJ regulations as compared to other states. I don't have an exhaustive list, but my research has revealed that California, Colorado, Rhode Island, and Nevada allow licensees to provide trade samples to their employees and other businesses in the supply chain. Also, I even the pharmaceutical industry provides samples to their doctors and patients en masse. Why is the cannabis industry limited in such fundamental ways?</p> <p>I am not sure of the exact nature of the complaint against Baked By the River but I know as a new cultivator in the state, we are really excited to participate in festivals and events where we might be able to provide samples of our product to the public in a consumption friendly environment. Please keep in mind that cannabis is not an analytical product, it is a sensual one. A market where consumers have no opportunity to experience and select their flower with their senses is one that will always leave the door wide open for the legacy market.</p> <p>Thoughtfully, Evan Manaresi President Bass River Buds</p>
Luis Cruz	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>I have been working for Curaleaf for two years and in my time there I have personally witnessed corporate, management, leadership members of staff behave in an unethical, unprofessional, retaliatory, and incompetent manner. I was recently let go on April 1st of 2025 and</p>

		<p>denied my Weingarten rights by Erin Lillis and Beneesh Haroon. Beneesh specifically said there will not be a union representative in the discussion of my termination. After confirming my personal email, as they could not answer as to why I was revoked access to my work email, Deputy, and deactivated my badge before my official termination, I left the work site. Later in the day Erin and Beneesh send me an email containing my termination date as 3/31/25 and the severance document to sign and return. I know this to be a calculated move in order to avoid paying insurance coverage. I know this because multiple people have been fired on the last day of each month. This company has no regard or respect for their employees and should not be allowed to operate in any capacity or circumstance. They have driven away both customers and employees with their unethical and unacceptable practices and it will only get worse if it continues. Not to mention the several violations they commit on a daily basis out of sheer incompetence or laziness. I urge this commission to reconsider any negotiations or agreements with this company and to fully investigate them as it is clear they have no intention of changing their illegal practices.</p>
Joe Piperato	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>I believe the whole point of cannabis legalization is for the benefit of medical patients. If it is for their benefit , then being able to sample products to see what fits their needs best is the only option. Big pharma dictates what drugs are available to a patient and it's a wait and see approach on how effective it is. Plus what side effects you might have because of said drug. With cannabis we can change that. By giving the patient access to try a product in real time , with someone present who can help guide them to what suits them best , changes how we do medicine as a whole. Which was the whole point of cannabis reform in the first place.</p> <p>They should also have access to cannabis friendly events to gather among fellow patient and partake in their medicine . The same way all citizens are allowed to come together at a bar for beers and football or a concert with a cooler in a parking lot. All state laws could be applied the same way they are at any event , with the understanding that cannabis would be consumed.</p> <p>The fact we're even having to write in and show up to meetings shows how much farther we still have to go for equality.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Marcela Betancurth	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>Having safe spaces for cannabis consumer testing is crucial for multiple reasons, particularly as cannabis continues to gain legal acceptance. Here's why these spaces matter:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consumer Safety & Education <p>Dosage Awareness: Many consumers, especially newcomers, may not understand how cannabis affects them. Safe spaces allow for guided consumption with expert advice.</p> <p>Product Transparency: Consumers can test legally compliant products, ensuring they are free from harmful contaminants.</p> 2. Responsible Consumption

		<p>Avoid Overconsumption: A controlled environment prevents excessive intake, helping consumers learn their tolerance levels.</p> <p>Encourages Mindful Use: Rather than recreational overindulgence, safe spaces promote intentional, informed cannabis use.</p> <p>3. Social Equity & Accessibility</p> <p>Inclusivity: Not everyone has a private space to consume safely. These spaces provide an alternative, especially for those in restrictive living situations.</p> <p>Community Building: A safe space fosters education and connection, reducing stigma and misinformation.</p> <p>4. Normalizing Legal Cannabis</p> <p>Destigmatization: Public safe spaces legitimize cannabis consumption as a normal, responsible activity.</p> <p>Industry Growth: Establishing legal testing spaces helps reinforce cannabis as a regulated, professional industry.</p> <p>5. Harm Reduction & Public Health</p> <p>Prevents Unsafe Mixing: Consumers can test cannabis in an environment where they are less likely to mix it with alcohol or other substances unsafely.</p> <p>Medical Patients Benefit: Those using cannabis for health reasons can receive guidance on effective strains and dosages.</p>
Jill Cohen	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>Subject: Regarding Baked by the River Consumption violation</p> <p>I am writing to support Jesse at Baked by the River Dispensary regarding the recent consumption violation at a private event. There seems to be significant confusion and a gray area regarding the rules for legally and compliantly sharing cannabis products at a private event, with no sales of any cannabis products.</p> <p>The current rules are not clearly defined, leading to misunderstandings among cannabis business owners. Clarifying and refining the regulations surrounding this issue would be beneficial before issuing fines.</p> <p>I propose we work together to redefine these rules and provide cannabis businesses with a chance to rectify any unintentional violations. Clearer guidelines would prevent future confusion and ensure compliance.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Respectfully, Jill</p>
Nick Fulton	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>To the NJ-CRC,</p> <p>I am writing in support of Baked by the River and the broader issue of responsible product sampling in New Jersey's cannabis industry. As this market continues to develop, it is crucial that we establish fair, practical regulations that encourage consumer education while maintaining compliance and safety.</p>

		<p>Non-infused sampling is a standard practice in other regulated markets, helping consumers make informed purchasing decisions by experiencing terpene profiles, aromas, and textures firsthand. This fosters trust, enhances brand integrity, and ultimately benefits both businesses and consumers.</p> <p>While I understand the importance of maintaining compliance, I urge the CRC to distinguish between educational product sampling and retail food service. Thoughtfully structured sampling programs align with the CRC's mission to promote public health and consumer safety. Penalizing businesses for engaging consumers in a responsible, educational manner sets a concerning precedent that may hinder industry growth.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that the CRC reconsider its approach to this matter and work collaboratively with operators to create guidelines that support safe, transparent consumer engagement.</p>
Nicolette Costa	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>I highly recommend that any agreement or understanding with curaleaf be revoked due to them completely disregarding your set accommodations in 2023 to sign with the union contract 200 days post you reinstating their license. Since then, they have created an unsafe, toxic, dirty work environment. They have revoked numerous of positions across the New Jersey retail locations. Top ringers, valued employees gone because of consistent mistreatment or refusal to sign this contract. In the case that we strike, I beg you don't give them emergency badges for the prior misuse of them when you had allowed them the first time.</p>
Aaron Rivera	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>I have had the displeasure of working for Curaleaf in Bellmawr between 4/21/22-11/2025. Many disgusting and illegal situations transpired while I was there but nothing was more nefarious than the bloodthirsty greed that Curaleaf exhibits on a daily basis. When we voted to be in a contracted union we were met with much resistance. One form of retaliation was a refusal to give annual performance reviews and raises. We were told by many in management that the union was not allowing us to get raises when in fact the union DOES NOT PAY US. They were in fact punishing us for even trying to unionize. Not one person in the building has received monetary reward for the hard work that effectively brings in hundreds of thousands of dollars a day. They cut back hours across the board and since they took an hour from everyone they effectively did not need to give anyone a paid 15 minute break. I believe that a strike was imminent due to the negative working environment curated by greed and degradation. A strike that would affect sales on the most precious day of all 4/20/25. So, what is curaleaf's course of action? Simple. They would strategically fire employees affiliated with the union. Employees who voted yes to strike for a better contract that reflected their wants and needs. They wouldn't fire committee members to avoid looking like a union bust, but this is exactly what union busting looks like. To add salt to the wound of being laid off they let their employees go at the end of the month so they wouldn't even have health insurance. I</p>

		<p>personally do not believe Curaleaf should be allowed to do business in our great state whatsoever. We, the working class of New Jersey, deserve better. Please do not allow Curaleaf to continue with their unlawful business practices.</p>
Kelli McCormick	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>I wrote last month asking for assistance and I am here again. Please hold Curaleaf Accountable! Let me remind everyone that on April 13, 2023 Commissioner Krista Nash stated that a business must maintain a Collective Bargaining Agreement within 200 days. Today we sit over 700 days removed from that emergency meeting and Curaleaf continues to flex their financial muscle and do everything they can to Union Bust. In most recent weeks and months Curaleaf has really employing Anti-Union tactics. They had cut hours of every full time employee as a bullying tactic to try to make everyone give full open availability. This caused many good employees to seek other jobs.</p> <p>Most recently if you could not give them full availability they initiated their "Termination Program" where they fired at least 22 people from the retail locations and they have once again closed the grow facility in Bellmawr as of March 31, 2025. This mass firing included many long term employees.</p> <p>Curaleaf has proven time and time again that they hold zero respect for the law.</p> <p>I would like to also remind you how Curaleaf turned to Bully tactics when the CRC originally did not renew the Adult License in 2023. They had shirt and signs printed, rented buses and paid employees to marched on Trenton. Curaleaf has no boundries and they continue to severely abusing its corporate power and prioritizing greed in New Jersey.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention in this matter</p>
Susan Limongelli	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>I would like to publicly support the small local business called Baked by the River in Lambertville, New Jersey, which is run by two exceptional community and civic minded people. In a short time from now, the value of plant medicine will be widely accepted, so this is an issue of timing more than anything. But I must wonder if this would even be happening if Baked by the River was corporately owned. (Somehow I don't think so). If elected officials want to persecute local small businesses for ridiculous charges like these, then the community will speak up, and those officials may not like what they have to say -because most of the talking will be done on election day. Unless you have been living under a rock for the last 10 years, you will know that plant medicine and holistic healing is here to stay. Put your resources and taxpayer dollars to better use than putting them behind this nonsense. Try campaigns against drunk driving. Alcohol is the most celebrated and supported drug in this country. And the most destructive by a mile.</p>
Julia Serrano	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>I am writing to request that the CRC exercise caution and accountability in its oversight of Curaleaf, specifically regarding the issuance of temporary employee badges in the event of potential staffing shortages due to internal labor disputes.</p>

		<p>Despite ongoing concerns raised by employees and the community, Curaleaf continues to operate with little regard for the well-being of its staff. Recently, many employees were blindsided by sudden and unannounced layoffs—some occurring mere months after the company hired an entirely new batch of employees. This decision has caused immense financial and emotional stress across the workforce.</p> <p>In one particularly distressing case, a coworker currently on bereavement leave following the death of her mother was contacted during her leave and informed that she had been laid off. This lack of compassion and disregard for basic human decency reflects a broader pattern of how Curaleaf has treated its employees—prioritizing profit margins over people.</p> <p>Granting temporary badges in the midst of these ongoing issues would only reward the company's failure to address legitimate employee concerns, including their continued refusal to finalize a contract with the union, despite the CRC's mandate issued on April 17, 2023, which gave the company 200 days to do so. It has now been over 600 days with no meaningful progress.</p> <p>The company's repeated attempts to sidestep accountability, reduce hours without notice, and ignore serious workplace concerns—ranging from wage suppression to retaliation—should disqualify them from receiving regulatory leniency. Allowing Curaleaf to bring in temporary badge holders under these circumstances would further erode employee trust and enable the company to continue undermining fair labor practices without consequence.</p> <p>I urge the CRC to withhold temporary badge approvals and ensure that Curaleaf addresses the core issues raised by its workforce before being allowed to operate at full capacity. New Jersey's cannabis industry must be built on a foundation of respect, equity, and accountability—and that starts with standing up for the workers who keep it running.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and attention.</p>
Brianna Sager	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>I am writing to request that the CRC exercise caution and accountability in its oversight of Curaleaf, specifically regarding the issuance of temporary employee badges in the event of potential staffing shortages due to internal labor disputes.</p> <p>Despite ongoing concerns raised by employees and the community, Curaleaf continues to operate with little regard for the well-being of its staff. Recently, many employees were blindsided by sudden and unannounced layoffs-some occurring mere months after the company hired an entirely new batch of employees. This decision has caused immense financial and emotional stress across the workforce.</p>

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Andrea Raible	April 3 rd , 2025	<p>I just wanted to take the opportunity to say a sincere thank you to Director Urbish and the CRC for taking the time to offer some transparency about the inner workings of the Office of Compliance and Investigations. It is so encouraging to see that testing practices will be investigated in coordination with the Department of Health's State lab! I deeply appreciate the focus on uncovering systemic testing issues as opposed to targeting individual cultivators/batches. I look forward to following the CRC investigation and being able to share data publicly as the Safe Leaf Society proceeds with further testing.</p> <p>Unfortunately my health prevented my ability to testify in person or even remotely at this meeting and I will need to keep this comment short, however I just could not pass up this chance to say thank you.</p>