New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission
Public In-Writing Comments
Public Meeting: October 1, 2025

Full Name	Meeting Date	Comment
Donna M. Puleo, RN, BSN	10/1/2025	Please enlighten us. Thousands of young adults are using these products with increasingly high THC levels. Most dispensaries are gradually selling products with THC levels above 20-22 & up through the 30-40 THC levels. What was once below a level of 16, has vanished. How are you using the billions of dollars that NJ has profited from cannabis sales? We have sold our youth down the river by making this available. Are you considering making this revenue available for rehabilitation for this addiction? If not, what is the profit going to?
Gina Rosar	10/1/2025	When will the commission have the "WIRE" standards requirements? Will the state offer courses to receive certification? Will there be authorized company's that can provide certification?
Evan Kolakowski	10/1/2025	TerrAscend NJ, LLC ('TANJ') writes to the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission ("CRC" or "Commission") to ask to keep the 2026 Social Equity Excise Fee ("SEEF") low and as comparable to previous years so as not to create a significant negative impact on all participants in the New Jersey cannabis marketplace, including consumers and patients. Substantially increasing the SEEF in a manner that is not consistent and similar to the rate that was applied in 2023 and 2024 will bring further challenges to an industry that is still nascent in New Jersey and where many adult-use licensees have already spent an enormous amount of time and capital to become operational. TANJ would like to point out that increasing the SEEF now, especially noting that by way of the Commissions own data, that since March 2024 to March 2025, the price per gram has decreased 21%. A significant increase in the SEEF will effectively reverse the hard work done by the Commission to obtain this market data that has been touted as part of a successful industry. With the understanding that at this time, licensees, like TANJ simply absorb the SEEF and do not pass it along to customers, a tax increase to $5 or more makes it incredibly hard for a business, especially a brand-new Class 1 Cultivator who may just be ready to begin its own sales to not pass the fee on to its customers. If fees are passed on, it will undoubtedly reach the adult-use customers and patients of New Jersey through Class 5 Retailers which leads to fewer purchases in-store and fewer wholesale purchases from Class 1 Cultivators, undoing much of the hard work done to lower prices in the

		first place. TANJ urges the Commission to take a thoughtful approach to the SEEF and avoid increasing a tax for the sake of just increasing a tax and to take the same avenue in its determination with the mindset in that the SEEF was designed to help grow and protect New Jersey's marketplace from a standpoint of social equity and diversely owned businesses, as not keeping the SEEF at a consistent rate so that all business including the social equity and diversely owned businesses aren't negatively impacted. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Alan Trzuskoski	10/1/2025	Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Alan Trzuskoski, and I represent RPI Partners, LLC. We hold an annual license, completed our final inspection on July 18th — 74 days ago — and we are still waiting for our permit to operate. Our facility is in an Impact Zone, and we are eager to create jobs, generate tax revenue, and provide meaningful benefits to the community. But none of this is possible until our permit is issued. Our team is ready. Our facility is ready. Our community is ready. And your compliance group is ready. We simply need your approval to move forward. Please help us finalize this process so we can begin operations and deliver the benefits this program was created to achieve. Thank you for your time and your consideration.
Julie Ann Aziz	10/1/2025	Good afternoon, Commissioners, and thank you for the opportunity to comment today. My name is Julie Ann Aziz, I was hired to be a shift lead and I am here to share how I was wrongfully terminated from Shipwreck'd dispensary, along with many of my coworkers who supported unionization. When I was hired, I was told I would receive 40 hours, benefits and be reimbursed for my background check and CRC card. I committed to this job in good faith. I even turned down an offer from another dispensary because Shipwreck'd promised a healthy work-life balance. I was told by the owner Ryan Ward that they will be firing team members but not to worry because I would not be getting fired. Then they found out that I signed a union card. At first, I was given 40 hours in my first week, but the following weeks

		my hours were cut to 29 hours, and then fired after the Labor day weekend. They needed me to cover since the assistant manager was away on vacation. The dispensary was not submitting the sales report each day. The general manager said he would do it weekly instead. So I informed the owner Ryan that it was supposed to be submitted each day but nothing changed. I was also reassured that discussing unionizing with coworkers would not put my job in jeopardy. Yet, every single employee who signed a union card was terminated. That is not coincidence that is retaliation. This experience has left me deeply concerned about how some dispensaries are treating their workers. The cannabis industry was built on promises of equity, opportunity, and fairness. But those values mean nothing if workers can be retaliated against for union activity, misled about benefits and hours. I am asking this Commission to hold Shipwreck'd accountable and to take a closer look at employment practices across dispensaries. Workers are the backbone of this industry. We deserve fair treatment, stability, and protection from retaliation. Without that, this industry will continue to fail the very people it promised to uplift. Thank you for your time and for considering my testimony today. Julie Ann Aziz
Todd Johnson	10/1/2025	Good afternoon Chair Houenou, Vice Chair Nash, Commissioner Mapp, Director Riggs and CRC staff members. My name is Todd Johnson and I serve as Executive Director of the New Jersey Cannabis Trade Association. Our membership is comprised exclusively of CRC licensed businesses operating in New Jersey. I provided testimony at last month's CRC meeting and implored the CRC to make it less challenging to operate a successful cannabis business. Today, I'll be discussing the Social Equity Excise Fee, an actual tax that is well intended but is making it more difficult for cannabis operators to succeed, especially those socially equity, diversely-owned, women-owned and veteran-owned entrepreneurs. First, I want to express the NJCTA's support for the noble intentions of the SEEF, which seeks to acknowledge the hypocrisy of the failed War on Drugs and reinvest in social equity initiatives in the very same communities that were targeted with overenforcement. Our Association wholeheartedly supports these funds being used to help right the wrongs of the past and we are eager to see the positive impact these funds and associated initiatives have on impact zones and underserved communities of color.

		These communities need equitable ownership and employment opportunities in the legal cannabis industry. Unfortunately, in its current form, the SEEF does not accomplish this goal. When increased annually, the SEEF cripples legal operators by making cannabis prices higher throughout the supply chain. Price increases encourage consumers to shift their spending and purchase cannabis from cheaper and less safe, unregulated, outlets, further weakening the legal industry. In addition to higher costs for all, the SEEF has an outsized negative impact on smaller entrepreneurs, businesses owned by social equity and diversely-owned operators, as they lack the larger operators' scale and ability to offset higher taxes. In your letter to the Governor and Legislature last year, the Commission recommended that SEEF generated funds be used to provide grants and low interest loans to this very same group of entrepreneurs. The NJCTA supports this idea as it builds upon the successful NJEDA program that has helped get local entrepreneurs up and running. Instead, the Governor and Legislature decided to allocate SEEF derived revenues to Community-Based Violence Intervention programs, a line item that already has over a $100 million dollar allowance in the State's severely limited budget. Do we know if SEEF funds have even been dispersed? Do we have any evidence at all that the funds have made a meaningful impact on the intended communities? We know for a fact that cannabis operators have paid a steep price. What was the trade-off? Last October, the majority of this commission voiced concerns about raising the SEEF. One would think we'd see a different methodology for decision making following last year's debacle. We need stakeholder conversations occurring so that the impacts of raising the fee are better understood. Sadly, nothing of the sort has taken place leading up to the decision this year. Increasing the fee now is a betrayal of the original legislation's spirit. We urge the Commission to collaborate with stakeholders, freeze the SEEF at $2.50 per ounce, and focus all efforts on immediately funding the programs recommended in the 2024 CRC report. Do the right thing and support entrepreneurs. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Todd Johnson	10/1/2025	Good afternoon Chair Houenou, Commissioners Nash and Mapp, and CRC staff. My name is Todd Johnson, and I am the Executive Director of the New Jersey Cannabis Trade Association. Our membership is comprised exclusively of CRC-licensed businesses. I speak today on behalf of New Jersey's licensed cannabis operators, businesses who desperately want to succeed in this young and quickly evolving marketplace. The legal cannabis industry in New Jersey has

made real progress since legalization 3 years ago. We have lower prices, increasing access and responsible operations. However, uncertainty and delays in regulatory action are putting many operators at risk.

In August, the Board denied five waiver requests, including the NJCTA's request to extend the 6-month expiration period for usable cannabis to 12 months. Extending the expiration period to 12 months would provide licensed operators with desperately needed flexibility to manage inventory, reduce unnecessary product waste and ensure consistent consumer access, all while maintaining public safety and product integrity. While the Board acknowledged the industry's pleas and the need for this change, it deferred action to the rulemaking process, with no clear timeline for implementation.

This type of uncertainty leaves businesses in limbo and reflects broader industry challenges in working with the Commission. Our rapidly evolving industry needs a regulator that can respond thoughtfully and quickly. We need more regulatory flexibility, more delegated authority, and the will to change or waive rules that no longer serve any useful purpose (and there are many of these out there). These issues are not overly complex. They do not require years of delay. They require responsiveness and a commitment to problem-solving.

We urge the Commission to lean into greater regulatory flexibility; not in a manner that decreases consumer safety, but rather promotes it while, simultaneously, supporting business's needs. Allow for more delegation of authority to staff who are better situated to decide issues in a timely manner and reduce bureaucratic red tape that only hinders the very same businesses that the Legislature and Governor have sought to empower.

Almost 8 years ago, Governor Murphy prioritized a similar call to action by signing Executive Order 6 at the onset of his first term. That order directed a review of the rules governing cannabis businesses, focusing on removing unnecessary barriers and identifying ways to expedite the needs of individual businesses. At the time, this effort was critical. Today, with several hundred licensed businesses navigating a complex regulatory landscape, the need to streamline the agency's operations is even more urgent.

At the end of the day, we all share the same goal: a healthy and safe legal cannabis market. By utilizing waivers and delegating certain authority to staff, the Commission can respond to timely needs of operators while retaining oversight. Let's move with urgency to implement the positive change this industry needs. We can only achieve that if we act together, and we must act now.