

New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission
Public In-Writing Comments
Public Meeting: January 13, 2023

Sender	Date	Comment/Question
Ali Shariff	12/23/22	<p>Can you pass a rule that says a person cannot, directly or indirectly, have any equity or economic interest in or lease space to more than one licensed marijuana facility and if they are found to have an interest in more than one through shell companies that the lease for that location is automatically terminated and the license void? Many of these landlords are forcing us to give up equity, have lease rates that should be criminal and are the bottle neck of the NJ cannabis space. If we limit them to only being involved in one license, it will open up more opportunities in New Jersey. There is no reason a landlord needs 4.9% equity stake in 20 different licenses. NJ is all about landlord greed.</p>
Andrea Abolins	12/28/22	<p>Dear NJ Cannabis Regulatory Commission, Please consider those with allergies in asthma while you work on laws governing where cannabis can be smoked. I think of all the lovely downtowns NJ has to offer, and then wonder if my family will be able to dine, shop, or walk around our towns without smelling cannabis smoke. The state has done such a good job of limiting tobacco smoke from many places, I hate to see it go backwards when it comes to cannabis smoke. Please help keep our air clean by keeping cannabis consumption businesses away from any attached structures and busy walkable areas. Also please consider that people will get in their vehicle high to drive home. Drunk driving has been a problem for years, we don't need more impaired drivers on the road. Especially considering there's not widely used methods to test drivers, the cannabis breathalyzer has yet to be invented.</p> <p>Thank you, Andrea</p>
Jayson Irizarry	1/3/23	<p>As a person born and raised in NYC that has now been a resident of New Jersey for 14 years. I cannot for the life of me understand why NJ and the CRC continue to do such a terrible job with cannabis. Do you realize you implemented a system so bartenders are now stuck either be medical or recreational watch messes with their tips? Did you also realize that because of this change some dispensaries have</p>

		<p>been moving medical products take the recreational side, and the only way to buy item done is to pay recreational prices. So with medical cannabis prices already higher than it would be to go to a dude down the street you are literally forcing medical people to the black market or grey market. Now I know you can't control anything with this, but do you realize New York had medical home and grow before their recreational stores even opened and yet we still have to look at a federal crime if we were to do this in New Jersey. The CRC has done nothing but made it clear to me that New Jersey cannabis is all about the money and not about the patients</p>
Amy M. Lipson	1/3/23	<p>I am a Marijuana Medical Patient through the State's program. Prior to obtaining my card, I was stopped for a moving violation in 2019 in addition to 2C: charges of having paraphernalia, and resin less than .09% all charges were downgraded to a "local ordinance". Still, I was told I needed to get my record EXPUNGED. It's that time.</p> <p>My lawyer is not very helpful, and I have A.D.D. that causes an overwhelming feeling with matters that require the necessary form filing, etc. in addition to having low income. The Governor pardoned various criminal charges under 2C: and I am asking that, although downgraded to a local ordinance, that he and the CRC aid me in expunging this record in the municipality and those that, also, need to be aware of the expungement. Please assist me in this matter of importance to my future. It's not fair that although charges were dropped down to the locality ordinance, I, too, deserve to have my record immediately expunged like those who had been charged for somewhat more serious related Marijuana "crimes".</p> <p>Thank you. A. M. Lipson 01/03/2023 PLEASE HELP ME.</p>
Michael Lazarus	1/3/23	<p>Tax revenue from cannabis businesses should be allocated by the state to local government for the purposes of roadway and other infrastructure maintenance.</p>
Davis Barsky	1/3/23	<p>I think the tax revenues from marijuana sales should be partially used to lower the property taxes of those of us paying high property taxes in Atlantic City, and other funds should used to help invest inm charging stations in Atlantic and other counties.</p>

Monica Harwell	1/3/23	The revenue from Cannabis sales should be put in a special account to help with affordable housing, and homelessness.
Dave Stutzbach	1/4/23	Would like to see funds collected from the taxes being used for coming up with emergency response systems that don't involve police. Like when someone is having a mental health crisis. Also more investment in updated public transit.
Taylor	1/6/23	NJ seems to have limited medical and recreational products. I find the lack of low dose edibles and sodas to be the most disappointing. In several other states they have edibles with individual doses as low as 2.5mg and 5mg in mints and gummies, along with sodas. These are much more appropriate for people who don't want to feel strong psychological effects. When will New Jersey be making these varieties available?
Angelique McKenzie	1/7/23	<p>As a long time resident of New Jersey, a recreational user for pleasure and aiding in my treatment of mental & physical health issues but not deemed severely disabled by the state and living in chronic poverty, these are my recommendations for what can be done moving forward on the matter.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Legalize home growing for personal use. 2. Additional affordability options, the current rate for goods is too high for those who use cannabis for maintaining or managing our health and live in poverty. 3. Cover costs of the application and licenses for medical cannabis purchasing by health insurances including Medicaid & Medicare, or minimally for product discounts for recipients of Medicaid & Medicare at 20% off or more for those not deemed by the state as disabled but have chronic health conditions. 4. Provide dispensaries in Northern Ocean County for recreational use and medical use cannabis. 5. Use funds for a basic income/UBI program for NJ residents: Help lift people out of poverty. Prevent homelessness. Improve mental health. Reduce crime. Reduce abusive relationships. Help people with climate emergencies. Restore hope. Etc. Show that every human is valued. Providing monthly or quarterly income payments to all NJ residents but most importantly to residents in need.

		<p>These suggestions are based on my personal issues and usage of cannabis. Thank you for the opportunity to provide me with a way to share this statement and for your consideration of my suggestions.</p> <p>Sincerely, Angelique McKenzie</p>
Judy LoBianco	1/9/23	<p>It's important that we provide funding for drug prevention and intervention on behalf of young people in the form of training and curriculum resources for NJ's Health Education teachers in our public schools. Funding should also be giving to student assistance counselors for training in middle schools and high schools. I'd like to see a partnership with NJDOE in support of specific learning standards around drug education.</p>
Margarita Leahy, MA, Ed.S, NCC, LPC, LCADC, ACS	1/9/23	<p>Are there any addiction medicine professionals or doctors on the commission? Has the commission consulted with NJPN? What or who is the oversight on the cultivation of cannabis and its potency? Is there any tax parity with alcohol and tobacco taxes? Would there be any benefit to cannabis being taxed like another alternative medicine? How do we reconcile the legal definition of cannabis use with the medical definition of cannabis use disorder? How has the commission addressed safety issues for example driving, heavy machinery use, and other workplace safety around cannabis impairment? How has the commission addressed OSHA policy with cannabis use and/or impairment?</p>
Brian Boehm	1/9/23	<p>Put the taxes towards lowering our property taxes! Our seniors need help. Save up the money for a whole year, and send every homeowner a check, including renters in apartments. That way we can use it as we see fit, i.e., rent, taxes or mortgage.</p>
Geralyn A Ackerman	1/9/23	<p>Dear Distinguished Council,</p> <p>My statement is in response to a recent article I've read whereas the public is being asked for suggestions as to where the tax collected on Marijuana should be used.</p> <p>As a NJ resident, registered under the NJ Medical Cannabis Program, I am grateful to have the ability to visit my local dispensary and obtain what I need to help me live with severe chronic pain.</p> <p>Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a NJ program, facilitated with the tax money, to help other patients that could benefit as I have, but cannot afford the reoccurring physician's fee to obtain prescription, the filing fees in NJ registry, (both are</p>

		<p>NOT covered by insurance) and quite frankly, the expense of the medical Marijuana itself.</p> <p>I am not asking for myself, I'm able to afford it. But I think of others that are suffering with pain who can not afford the required Dr visits and agency fees associated with it. If there was a program to further assist NJ residents, I believe more good people from our wonderful state (you need to live here to realize we're #1) wouldn't have to suffer needlessly if only they find the NJ Cannibas Program more affordable and accessible.</p> <p>How cool would it be if NJ continued to be progressive and would set an example for other states, showing that they are fully invested in their Medical Canibus Program? To have boasting rights that NJ is making it more affordable for those who are not able to participate in the program due to financial hardship. That NJ cares enough about the suffering to help them with the taxes that are collected with sales.</p> <p>Please at least think about it. It would be a worthwhile program that directly helps patients to get the relief needed to live better lives. Until one lives with severe pain daily, and then finds a product that gives a remarkable level of relief, it would be hard for them to understand just what a God send medical canibas is for me and why I'm so passionate about making it more affordable for those who need the extra assistance.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinions. And thank you Governor Murphy for doing all you do for our state.</p> <p>Sincerely yours, Geraldyn A Ackerman</p>
Cindy Lazicki	1/10/23	Use money to pay down debt in NJ
barry doll	1/10/23	<p>Please deny a license to ELEVENELEVEN to build a cultivation and manufacturing factory in Bergenfield because the town is too small --less than 3 sq miles in area and very populated with about 28,000 residents.</p> <p>The Factory would create a hazzard to compromised residents with air pollution. Further the proposed factory is across the street from an apartment / shopping complex-- Foster Village--which contains a pediatric medical facility.</p> <p>In addition the proposed factory is located across the avenue from a US Armory which hosts a soccer league.</p>

		<p>Several churches are close by, a dinner is next door and a music school is also next door.</p> <p>This proposed location is really not suitable for this facility. There are many risk / problems associated with this factory. Accordingly the Commission should deny a license.</p>
Alexis Guerrero	1/10/23	Allocate some of the tax revenue on fighting/lobbying against the big corporations that are preventing home grow in NJ.
Scott DiPatria	1/10/23	<p>The legalization of marijuana in New Jersey presents a golden opportunity for the State to positively impact its residents. Since an agreed upon percentage of marijuana sales tax is dedicated to "At Risk" communities, how should we best appropriate the remaining windfall of funds? PROPERTY TAXES, SCHOOL TAXES and the ever increasing salaries in government and public service. Governor Murphy said himself, "If taxes are your biggest concern, New Jersey isn't the best place for you". I support and have voted for Governor Murphy in every election. His storied Wall Street and Political career put him in the unique position to impact the biggest problem this state faces in the future. The public servants in this state have been the public's master since the 1970's. Let's take some of the burden off the taxpayers in this watershed moment. Keep our seniors and low income residents from fleeing our state due to increased taxes. I'm old enough to remember the pitch to legalize the lottery. Schools were supposed to most benefit from lottery tax revenue. Legalized gambling in NJ had there own less than honest pitch. Let's hold these industries accountable to their words and fund NJ taxpayers in an impactful manner. We can do better. We should do better.</p>
tracy weber	1/11/23	Hi, I am concerned on where the marijuana tax is being allocated. I would like to see the funds used to lower property taxes, gas tax, or provide some sort of relief to middle class families who don't receive governmental assistance, and are currently racking up credit card debt with groceries, increase in energy bills, gas etc. I know there is a large amount of taxes that have already been earned, and I just wouldn't want that money to go to the general fund.
judith F. Despommier	1/11/23	Once again, I am imploring you not to grant ELEVENELEVEN (license applications (1102and 1034) permit to build a Manufacturing facility on the site of the former SEARS building in Bergenfield, NJ, I can't help but wonder if that site, right between the DiBello music school

		<p>and the Brownstone Diner and Pancake house is, the appropriate site. Bergenfield NJ is a town less than 3 square miles in an area with 27,000 people living in the community. This location is so close to churches of worship, an outdoor strip mall right across the street, a senior citizen resident apartment and a government facility (the armory,) I can imagine how many residents will be exposed to the fumes even though filters were proposed. And has anyone wondered how the children of our community will react while waiting to enter the Pancake House "what the "New Store is and what does it sell?"</p> <p>I just can imagine!!!</p> <p>The Bergen Record published, in the past few days, the numerous facilities in all of the other communities in the state with pot facilities and one article, in particular, reported little inquisitive children who have gotten their hands on gummies and brownies laced with pot not realizing how dangerous it is! All of them were rushed to the hospital. I ask you, does Bergenfield, NJ need a manufacturing facility that can be converted to a direct-to-consumer facility shortly after its up and running?</p> <p>MY answer is loud and clear NO.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Judith Despommier</p>
Kevin C. Shelly	1/11/23	<p>I contacted the commission - well, I tried to - on Dec. 21. No one answered ANY phone. So I sent an email. The response to the email was useless.</p> <p>See below: Media, CRC [CRC] CRC.Media@crc.nj.gov Dec 21, 2022, 10:27 AM to me</p> <p>Thank you for contacting the Cannabis Regulatory Commission's Communications Department. Media questions and requests will be answered promptly. Communications New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission</p> <p>I followed up on Dec. 22 with another email. See below: Kevin Shelly kcshlly@gmail.com Dec 22, 2022, 6:26 AM to CRC</p> <p>Nineteen hours ago, I got an automated response: Media, CRC [CRC] CRC.Media@crc.nj.gov</p>

		<p>Dec 21, 2022, 10:27 AM (19 hours ago) to me Thank you for contacting the Cannabis Regulatory Commission's Communications Department. Media questions and requests will be answered promptly. Communications New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission</p> <p>I'm still waiting. Writer Kevin Shelly, 856-449-8684.</p> <p>Again, no response. I told the husband of a commission member that I was having a problem. He told me he would pass it along. STILL NO REPOSE. As a result, I used the automated system to file an OPRA on Jan. 2. I have not had a response to the OPRA, either. A cannabis lawyer I know personally has told me this is SOP for how dysfunctionally the commission operates. Obviously, this is unprofessional. Can you explain the failures of the commission to respond? Can you please respond to the OPRA? THE SEVEN BUSINESS DAYS IS UP! Meanwhile, I am copying my OPRA lawyer. Thanks for your attention. Please do better. The people of NJ deserve better. Kevin C. Shelly</p>
Dab Riga	1/11/23	<p>If an alcohol consumer wants to get the freshest possible product for a preferred brand of theirs, do they go to a liquor store? No, they go to a distillery, a winery, or a brewery. These sorts of businesses often have consumption areas, similar to the proposed public cannabis consumption areas. Are these alcohol businesses more like dispensaries and retailers, or more like cultivators and manufacturers? Indeed, they are more similar to the latter. These are the places where usable cannabis and cannabis products are made.</p> <p>It makes sense within the current regulatory regime for Class 5 Retailers to be given the ability to create public cannabis consumption areas as proposed, as they are already licensed to sell usable cannabis and cannabis products to legal age adult use consumers. At the same time, we propose that Class</p>

		<p>1 Cultivators and Class 2 Manufacturers also be given a highly restricted, narrowly focused ability to create public cannabis consumption areas and sell ready-for-sale usable cannabis and cannabis products directly to legal age adult use consumers, but only in the given company's public cannabis consumption area, and only for consumption on-site. Another element could be a "BYOC" policy where guests can consume cannabis obtained elsewhere as well.</p> <p>Part of the spirit of the proposed regulation is that some public and other multi-family housing situations actually have house rules banning the consumption of cannabis inside peoples' own homes, so the intent is to create these public cannabis consumption areas to provide safe and legal consumption spaces for adult use cannabis consumers in these situations. Extending the policy to Class 1 Cultivators and Class 2 Manufacturers would only increase the scale of this benefit. Are there disused warehouses and vacant lots near public and other multifamily housing sites in New Jersey? Yes, there are. Are disused warehouses and vacant lots prime real estate for cannabis cultivators and manufacturers? Yes, they are. Would public cannabis consumption areas for cultivators and manufacturers create more safe and legal public cannabis consumption areas in the vicinity of public and multi-family housing? Yes, it would.</p> <p>Even beyond these reasons, we believe that adult use cannabis consumers and brands will unequivocally benefit from expanding the scope of the public cannabis consumption area regulations to include Class 1 Cultivators and Class 2 Manufacturers. Please consider adding these license classes to the forthcoming regulations regarding public cannabis consumption areas. Thank you.</p>
Shabri Bond	1/12/23	<p>To Whom it May concern (CRC) Public Cannabis Consumption Areas for Cultivators and Manufacturers</p> <p>If an alcohol consumer wants to get the freshest possible product from their local brand of choice, do they go to a liquor store? No, they go to a distillery, winery, or brewery. These sorts of businesses often have consumption areas, similar to the proposed public cannabis consumption areas for Class 5 Retailers. Are these alcohol businesses with consumption areas more like dispensaries and retailers, or</p>

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Donna Joseph	1/12/23	I believe cultivators and manufacturers should be allowed to apply for consumption licenses.

<p>Harold Robert Wunder III</p>	<p>1/13/23</p>	<p>Hello CRC,</p> <p>I apologize I could not make it to the zoom meeting today, the schedule change did not permit my attendance. Firstly, I want to thank the Commission for its efforts to create an equitable solution to cannabis licensing in the great state of New Jersey. My partner and I have been attempting to acquire a license since 2017, and thanks to the CRC’s work on creating an equitable solution for social equity candidates, our companies were finally were conditionally licensed last spring. That said, I want to draw attention to a group of individuals that the system is still neglecting. I am a quadriplegic, and I feel that the commission could do more to encourage people with disabilities to find a place in the cannabis industry. Before I started my own company, I felt exploited, undervalued, and frankly quite disrespected by all of my employers. From off-color jokes, to straight ableism, the workplace was not an enjoyable place for me. Thankfully, I have a great friend and partner who believed in my idea to start our cannabis venture, and though we are both dangerously close to financial ruin in our journey to make our dream of becoming fully licensed cultivators and manufacturers a reality, I would never give up the freedom that the cannabis industry has afforded me. I am aware that disability is not always easily quantifiable, and that there are points available for disabled veterans, but there are so many folks like me who simply have been dealt a raw deal by life in terms of ability that would thrive in this industry if they were given some help. I would urge the commission to work to come up with a solution that would bring some equity to disabled New Jerseyans entrepreneurs like myself, many of whom are patients and some of the earliest supporters of cannabis in New Jersey.</p> <p>Thanks so much for your time. If you have any questions, or I can help with this problem in any way, please reach out to me.</p> <p>My very best, Rob Wunder</p>
<p>Tanmoy Jadhav</p>	<p>1/13/23</p>	<p>Public Cannabis Consumption Areas for Cultivators and Manufacturers</p>

If an alcohol consumer wants to get the freshest possible product from their local brand of choice, do they go to a liquor store? No, they go to a distillery, winery, or brewery. These sorts of businesses often have consumption areas, similar to the proposed public cannabis consumption areas for Class 5 Retailers. Are these alcohol businesses with consumption areas more like dispensaries and retailers, or more like cultivators and manufacturers? Indeed, they are more similar to the latter, those being the places where usable cannabis and cannabis products are actually made. It makes sense within the current regulatory regime for Class 5 Retailers to be given the ability to create public cannabis consumption areas as proposed, as they are already licensed to sell usable cannabis and cannabis products to legal age adult use consumers. At the same time, we propose that Class 1 Cultivators and Class 2 Manufacturers also be given a highly restricted, narrowly focused ability to establish public cannabis consumption areas and sell ready-for-sale usable cannabis and cannabis products directly to legal age adult use consumers, but only in small quantities in the given company's public cannabis consumption area, and only for consumption on-site. Another element could be a "BYOC" policy where guests can consume cannabis obtained elsewhere at the location as well.

Part of the spirit of the proposed regulation involves the fact that some public and other multi-family housing situations have house rules banning the consumption of cannabis inside peoples' own homes. So, the intent is to create these public cannabis consumption areas to provide safe and legal consumption spaces for all adult use cannabis consumers, especially those in need of a safe space for consumption. Extending the policy to Class 1 Cultivators and Class 2 Manufacturers would only increase the scale of this benefit. Are there disused warehouses and vacant lots near public and other multifamily housing sites in New Jersey? Yes, there are. Are disused warehouses and vacant lots prime real estate for cannabis cultivators and manufacturers? Yes, they are. Would public cannabis consumption areas for cultivators and manufacturers create more safe and legal public cannabis consumption areas in the vicinity of public and multi-family housing? Yes, they would. Even beyond these reasons, adult use cannabis consumers and brands will unequivocally

		<p>benefit from Class 1 Cultivators and Class 2 Manufacturers being included in the scope of the public cannabis consumption area regulations alongside Class 5 Retailers. Please consider adding these license classes to the forthcoming regulations regarding public cannabis consumption areas. Thank you.</p>
<p>Hrishikesh Vimadalal</p>	<p>1/13/23</p>	<p>Public Cannabis Consumption Areas for Cultivators and Manufacturers</p> <p>If an alcohol consumer wants to get the freshest possible product from their local brand of choice, do they go to a liquor store? No, they go to a distillery, winery, or brewery. These sorts of businesses often have consumption areas, similar to the proposed public cannabis consumption areas for Class 5 Retailers. Are these alcohol businesses with consumption areas more like dispensaries and retailers, or more like cultivators and manufacturers? Indeed, they are more similar to the latter, those being the places where usable cannabis and cannabis products are actually made.</p> <p>It makes sense within the current regulatory regime for Class 5 Retailers to be given the ability to create public cannabis consumption areas as proposed, as they are already licensed to sell usable cannabis and cannabis products to legal age adult use consumers. At the same time, we propose that Class 1 Cultivators and Class 2 Manufacturers also be given a highly restricted, narrowly focused ability to establish public cannabis consumption areas and sell ready-for-sale usable cannabis and cannabis products directly to legal age adult use consumers, but only in small quantities in the given company's public cannabis consumption area, and only for consumption on-site. Another element could be a "BYOC" policy where guests can consume cannabis obtained elsewhere at the location as well.</p> <p>Part of the spirit of the proposed regulation involves the fact that some public and other multi-family housing situations have house rules banning the consumption of cannabis inside peoples' own</p> <p>homes. So, the intent is to create these public cannabis consumption areas to provide safe and legal consumption spaces for all adult use cannabis consumers, especially those in need of a safe space for consumption. Extending the policy to Class 1 Cultivators and Class 2 Manufacturers would only</p>

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Amy	1/13/23	Very disappointed that cultivars are making much of their flower into cartridges. I don't vape! Please make them make equal flower and other available.
Amy	1/13/23	I thought this was going to acknowledge expungemenylts?
STEVEN SOLOP	1/13/23	<p>I could not get my mic to work today, here's what I had to say. I am a business and property owner in Highlands. I was shocked to see that the Land Use Board and Council approved the Ordinance permitting Cannabis Dispensaries, knowing that the Bay Avenue Area is in a severe flood zone. FEMA regulatory measures prohibit controlled dangerous substances in flood zones. SFHA and NFIP measures also apply. Most recently on 12-23-22 the bay ave area was flooded the length of Bay Ave. I believe this is the wrong location for these businesses.</p> <p>Can you please look into this matter.</p> <p>Thanks in advance.</p> <p>pls cfm rept Steve Solop 908-380-8807</p>
Jeffrey Dockhorn	1/14/23	Revenue from cannabis sale should fund the cost of living allowance missing for over 15years from police n fire pension
Ronald Manigault	1/14/23	Please revisit the cannabis home grow bill. The cannabis industry would benefit if people was allowed to master their craft.
Go Eat [REDACTED]	1/15/23	<p>Is there any point when you're going to address the exorbitant prices that people need to pay in order to get their medicine?</p> <p>Is there any point where you're going to address the fact that</p>

		<p>there has yet to be a single micro-business opened? What about how long most people need to drive to get to a dispensary? Do you even care about what the people actually want? Or just the rich? Given your stupid law that criminalizes home grows, I'm going to fully assume that you don't care about the people you manipulate so you can sit around and do nothing about everything. Until I see change, I'm not going to take you seriously and will continue to lambast you morons with these comments so that you can at least remember who you work for.</p>
Edwin Robles	1/16/23	<p>I wanted to reach out with hopes that Empire Dispensary could make the list of approvals. We have done everything we have been asked from the state but not heard anything back yet. We have gotten our women owned, small business and minority owned certification, and i am also a Army Veteran. Any news would be greatly appreciated. We are ready to go once we get our approval. Please consider us we are so eager to get our business going so that we can grow a successful and prosperous business that will not only be successful, but also be a huge part of our community that will give back to our community if given the opportunity. Please give us a chance we will not let you down. Thank you. 😊</p>
John Gannon	1/23/23	<p>I believe that all license types should have ability to have a consumption area. How are cultivators/brands supposed to test product and throw parties? I understand the traffic argument but cultivators and manufacturers should be allowed to have an outdoor or indoor smoking area separate from their operations but on same property. This would allow for brands to have monthly events etc to showcase products</p>