



6/16/23

Assemblymember Holden  
Chair of the Committee on Appropriations  
1021 O Street, Room 8220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB-285 Cannabis: retail preparation, sale, and consumption of non cannabis food and beverage products

Position: Support

Dear Chair Holden,

On behalf of the United Cannabis Business Association (UCBA) and our coalition of regional cannabis trade association partners would like to express our enthusiastic support for Senator Allen's bill SB 285, which seeks to legalize the sale and consumption of non-cannabis food and beverages by cannabis retailers and lounges.

The UCBA and it's coalition consists of the Coachella Valley Cannabis Alliance, the California Minority Alliance, the Long Beach Collective Association, Social Equity Los Angeles, the San Francisco Cannabis Retailers Alliance, the Silicon Valley Cannabis Alliance, and the Angeles Emeralds, and represents the overwhelming majority of legal cannabis retailers throughout California.

We strongly believe that SB 285 will provide significant economic opportunities for cannabis retailers to become more viable businesses in a challenging economic climate, while also promoting increased tourism opportunities for travelers looking to experience California's premium cannabis in a responsible environment. Additionally, it recognizes the existing culture of cannabis consumption with food and drinks, and provides legislative clarity on what items may be sold by retailers.

The primary reasons for our support of SB 285 are as follows:

1. Economic Opportunities: SB 285 will create significant economic opportunities for cannabis retailers and lounges to expand their product offerings and improve their bottom line. By legalizing the sale of

non-cannabis food and beverages, retailers and lounges will be able to provide a more diverse experience for their customers, while also attracting a wider range of clientele.

2. Legislative Clarity: SB 285 will provide clear legislative guidance on what items may be sold by cannabis retailers and lounges, thereby avoiding any confusion or ambiguity in the marketplace.
3. Tourism Opportunities: SB 285 will promote increased tourism opportunities for travelers looking to experience California's premium cannabis in a responsible environment.
4. Recognizing Existing Culture: SB 285 recognizes the existing culture of cannabis consumption with food and drinks, and allows for legal retailers and lounges to offer products that are currently popular and in demand by consumers.

We also note that SB 285 is a natural evolution of last year's regulations adopted by the Department of Cannabis Control, which allowed for the sale of non-cannabis pre-packaged food and beverages to be sold by cannabis lounges. SB 285 builds on this important foundation and further enhances the legal cannabis market in California. The bill offers an important distinction and experiential competitive incentive against the large and thriving illicit market.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for Senator Allen's leadership and support of promoting the viability of the legal cannabis industry in California. SB 285's vision and dedication to this industry are vital to its success and growth.

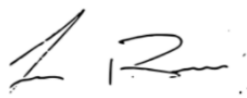
We urge all committee members to vote in favor of SB 285. For questions, contact our Legislative Advocacy Chair, Jerred Kiloh from United Cannabis Business Association at (707) 235-8474.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Jerred Kiloh  
President  
United Cannabis Business  
Association



Luis Rivera  
Executive Director  
Social Equity LA



John Delaplane - Director  
San Francisco Cannabis  
Retailers Alliance



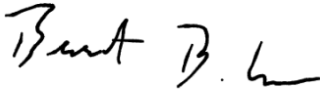
Adam Hijazi  
President  
Long Beach Collective  
Association



Virgil Grant  
President  
California Minority  
Alliance



Michael Anthony Long  
Co-Founder  
Angeles Emeralds



Brent Buhrman  
President  
Coachella Valley Cannabis  
Alliance

CC: Members of the California Assembly Committee on Appropriations