June 11, 2019

The Honorable Assemblymember Evan Low  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Business and Professions  
State Capitol, Room 4126  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 67 (McGuire) Cannabis: Temporary Licenses - OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember Low:

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, I respectfully urge your opposition of SB 67 (McGuire), which would extend temporary licenses issued by the Department of Food and Agriculture until September 15, 2019 for applicants, if the licensee submitted an application for an annual state license and application fees for the same premises and commercial cannabis activity for which the temporary license was issued, before the licensee’s temporary license expiration.

MAUCRSA authorized licensing authorities to issue four-month temporary licenses to applicants, with opportunities for 90-day extensions, through December 31, 2018. The temporary license required only proof of local authorization and entitled the holder to engage in commercial cannabis activity without completing the annual licensing application requirements, including CEQA review. The state issued temporary licenses at no cost, and temporary licensees did not have access to the track and trace system, though they were obligated to maintain paper records. The temporary license was intended as an intermediate step while the state and local jurisdictions managed their efforts to come into compliance with the cannabis regulatory structure.

The County currently has 1,200 temporary license that will be expiring by September 15th, and has significant concerns that SB 67 (McGuire) would become a disincentive for applicants who have been following the rules up until this point.

Although the County is opposed to SB 67 (McGuire), the County would suggest the following amendments to the bill:

- Make Track and Trace mandatory for temporary licenses.
- Require renewed local authorization.

We think this bill as drafted would create more chaos in the County and threaten the County’s ability to oversee and regulate this burgeoning industry.
For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is opposed to SB 67 (McGuire). If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Senator Mike McGuire, Author
Members, Assembly Committee on Business and Professions
Robert Sumner, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Business and Professions
Bill Lewis, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors