

LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT FOR
H.R. 1595, THE SAFE BANKING ACT

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

Mr. HECK. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters of endorsement for H.R. 1595, the SAFE Banking Act, which passed the House on September 25, 2019.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND SECURITIES,

Harrisburg, PA, September 24, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Republican Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND LEADER MCCARTHY: As state banking supervisors, we are responsible for ensuring the safety and soundness of state-chartered banks and credit unions, as well as the regulation of non-depository financial service providers that may provide services to these entities. The financial services industry in state authorized marijuana jurisdictions is unable to effectively service the needs of this new and growing industry because of conflicting federal and state regulation for marijuana.

Medical marijuana is available to 67 percent of the country's population, and 11 states have legalized adult recreational use. This significant portion of the country's population is funding a growing cannabis industry. The lack of federal safe harbors or authorization for financial service providers is creating commercial risk for the legitimate marijuana industry, due to the lack of financial servicing of these monies.

This absence of servicing encourages a grey economy, as the industry's participants are unable to use safe, regulated, and verifiable money services. Until financial institutions can serve the industry without violating federal laws, then tax collection, consumers, and the financial system will remain at risk.

Until Congress can take broader action to more comprehensively address cannabis, we support the passage of H.R. 1595 to provide a safe harbor for depository institutions that supply financial services to legitimate marijuana businesses and allow for the transparent and safe banking of the marijuana industry.

We urge a YES vote on H.R. 1595.

Robin L. Wiessmann, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Banking and Securities; Candace Frank, Bank Commissioner, Arkansas State Bank Department; Kenneth Boldt, Bank Commissioner, Colorado Division of Banking; Kevin B. Hagler, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Banking and Finance; Iris Ikeda, Commissioner of Financial Institutions, Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Deborah Hagan, Secretary, Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation; Anita G. Fox, Director, Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services; John Ducrest, Commissioner, Louisiana Office of Financial Institutions; Lloyd P. LaFountain III, Superintendent, Maine Bureau of Financial Institutions; Mary Gallagher, Commissioner, Massachusetts Division of Banks; Melanie Hall, Commissioner, Montana Division of Banking and Financial Institutions; Christopher Moya, Director, New Mexico Financial Institutions Division; Lise Kruse, Commissioner, North Dakota Department of Financial Institutions; Elizabeth K. Dwyer,

Superintendent of Financial Services, Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation; Charles Clark, Director, Washington Department of Financial Institutions; Dawn E. Holstein, Commissioner, West Virginia Division of Financial Institutions; Kathy Blumenfeld, Secretary-designee, Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions.

JUNE 13, 2019.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE CRAPO,
Chair, Senate Committee on Banking,
Housing and Urban Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
Chair, House Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
Minority Leader,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader,
Washington, DC.

Hon. SHERROD BROWN,
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Banking,
Housing and Urban Affairs, Wash-
ington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK MCHENRY,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Finan-
cial Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS: As our States' chief executives, we urge Congress to pass legislation allowing states with legalized medical or adult-use cannabis to operate safely and under the scrutiny of the national banking system. We strongly support the passage of the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act (H.R. 1595) and (S. 1200) or similar legislation that would remove the legal uncertainty for banks and credit unions, reducing their risk, enhancing public safety, and increasing financial transparency.

We were pleased that the House Financial Services Committee held a subcommittee hearing on cannabis and financial services on February 13, and we were especially encouraged to see that H.R. 1595 passed the full committee on a strong bipartisan basis on March 28. We urge the full House to pass this legislation to help provide banking services to state-licensed cannabis businesses.

State and federal governments have a shared interest in upholding the rule of law, protecting public safety, and transitioning markets out of the shadows and into our transparent and regulated banking system. Without access to banking services, state-licensed cannabis businesses operate predominantly on a cash basis. This poses a significant public safety risk to customers and employees. Additionally, because banking services are barred, these businesses are unable to write checks, make and receive electronic payments, utilize a payroll provider, or accept credit and debit cards. The cash-only environment puts an additional burden on state and local government agencies that must collect tax and fee payments, in person and in cash, incurring additional public expenses and employee safety risks.

Currently, thirty-four U.S. states, three U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia have legalized the medical use of cannabis. Additionally, ten states and the District of Columbia have legalized recreational use by adults over 21 years of age. Despite legalization of cannabis at the state-level—in many cases to provide medical treatment—our financial institutions face enormous barriers, legal risks, and criminal and civil liability under the Controlled Substances Act that prevent them from providing banking serv-

ices to state-licensed businesses. As a result, very few banks and credit unions will provide these services, leaving many businesses in this sector unbanked.

Many of our states have implemented laws and regulations that ensure accountability of the cannabis industry. However, without banking services, cannabis businesses are less able to obey the law, pay taxes, and follow these important regulations. The public safety risks posed by these cash-only businesses can be mitigated through access to banking service providers.

To adequately address these issues, we urge Congress to pass legislation, such as the SAFE Banking Act (H.R. 1595) and (S. 1200), that would provide a safe harbor for depository institutions that provide a financial product or service to a cannabis business in states that have legalized it. We look forward to working with you as legislation progresses to address this urgent public policy concern.

Sincerely,

Philip D. Murphy, Governor, New Jersey;
Jay Inslee, Governor, Washington;
Tony Evers, Governor, Wisconsin;
Larry Hogan, Governor, Maryland; Jim Justice, Governor, West Virginia; Gary Herbert, Governor, Utah; Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor, New Mexico; Ralph S. Northam, Governor, Virginia; Tim Walz, Governor, Minnesota; JB Pritzker, Governor, Illinois; Steve Sisolak, Governor, Nevada; Ned Lamont, Governor, Connecticut; Leon Guerrero, Governor, Guam; Doug Burgum, Governor, North Dakota; Jared Polis, Governor, Colorado; Kate Brown, Governor, Oregon; Janet Mills, Governor, Maine; Tom Wolf, Governor, Pennsylvania; Albert Bryan Jr., Governor, Virgin Islands; Gretchen Whitmer, Governor, Michigan.

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR
CANNABIS COMMERCE,
Costa Mesa, CA.

GACC STATEMENT ON THE SAFE BANKING ACT

The Global Alliance for Cannabis Commerce (GACC) announces its endorsement of the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act.

The SAFE Banking Act is sponsored by Representatives Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), Denny Heck (D-WA), Steve Stivers (R-OH), Warren Davidson (R-OH), and over 200 other members of the U.S. House of Representatives, and Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Cory Gardner (R-CO), and nearly thirty other members of the U.S. Senate.

Cannabis banking issues have long been both a significant hamper on industry growth vis-à-vis access to capital and a public safety risk—including the risk of kidnap, torture, and mutilation for the purposes of extortion—by compelling a cash-laden industry.

But beyond the well-documented industry issues cannabis entrepreneurs and small businesses encounter, the lack of banking access puts a significant onus on the 200,000-plus employees of U.S. cannabis businesses. Cannabis businesses have extreme logistical difficulty providing benefits to employees, providing a payroll system, and applying withholdings. Oftentimes, GACC member-business employees are forced to live cash lifestyles without access to proper retirement or healthcare savings. We urge the swift passage of this act.

“The questions lawmakers have to grapple with in legalizing cannabis are serious. The job of the federal government now is not to upset the existing multi-billion dollar U.S. cannabis market and to allow state markets to flourish through wise use of its commerce

powers.”—GACC CFO Will Senn (Founder of Urban Leaf)

Contact: Randal John Meyer, *Executive Director, Global Alliance for Cannabis Commerce, ExecutiveDirector@GlobalCannabisCommerce.Org.*

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF PERFECTING CHURCH

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Perfecting Church, a growing ministry and house of worship in Detroit, on its thirtieth anniversary.

Perfecting Church held its first service in 1989 in the home of Pastor Marvin L. Winans with a congregation of only eight people. The church and its congregation grew quickly and found its self in need of a building before ultimately settling into its current home on Detroit's east side. The church's final move was symbolic of two of its guiding principles, unity and serving others. Since its opening, Perfecting Church's mission to serve and bring community together has been reflected in its outstanding charitable work and its service-based programs. Under the leadership of Pastor Winans, Perfecting Church has expanded its services to include youth programming, performing arts, as well as transitional housing for women in the community. Perfecting Church is a community asset to Detroit and has truly become an integral part of its faith-based community.

Please join me in tribute to Perfecting Church in honor of its thirtieth anniversary and its ongoing community service.

RECOGNIZING ORANGE COUNTY CONSERVATION CORPS FOR 25 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC) and its 25 years of service in the Orange County, California community. OCCC was founded in 1993 and is a voluntary work and learn program for at-risk and disadvantaged youth ages 18 to 25.

Over the course of the last quarter century, OCCC has provided career guidance and workforce training to more than 8,000 young adults. Because of the OCCC's hard work and dedication, Corps members have received more than \$1.5 million in financial assistance, received pay for nearly two million hours of work and job training, and have earned over 3,000 high school diplomas and job certificates.

OCCC's dedication to the young adults of Orange County is only rivaled by their dedication to environmental stewardship and conservation. Since its founding, OCCC has protected and restored nearly 3,000 acres of public land, diverted 9,000 tons of recyclable ma-

terial from landfills, and planted more than 120,000 native plants and trees. They exemplify true dedication to Orange County and our communities' public lands.

I ask that all Members join me in recognizing the amazing work and contribution of OCCC.

RECOGNIZING RICK AND MARY MCQUEARY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible work and life of Rick and Mary McQueary.

Rick McQueary and Mary Haseltine McQueary are a couple with a deep love and respect for the rich history in Springfield and Greene County. Each of their families arrived in Greene County in the mid to late 1800s. Rick's family began a pharmacy business in Ash Grove, Missouri and later moved it to Springfield where it grew into the premier drug wholesaler in southwest Missouri. Mary's family was active in farming and had the largest apple orchards in Missouri. Others in her family, including her father, were interested in practicing law and were noted lawyers in the area. Family stories fostered a love of learning about the history of this community still exist for both of them today.

Mary currently serves as the president of the Board of Directors of History Museum on the Square, has been an active volunteer with the Museum for over 19 years, and has spent the last several years spearheading the development and construction of the Museum's new facility that opened in August of 2019. She and Rick are the co-chairs of the capital campaign for the Museum and she has served as the project manager for the Museum's construction project, overseeing a team of industry professionals, steering the direction of museum content, writing copy and even picking out finishes. This project is one of the largest historic revitalization projects in downtown Springfield. The ultra-modern History Museum on the Square is projected to attract 30,000 visitors each year with galleries featuring the Birthplace of Route 66, the first Wild West shootout with Wild Bill Hickok, and many other stories of the unique Ozarks crossroads.

Rick and Mary have been able to show others that historic buildings and local history are worth preserving. The new facility allows the Museum to provide additional educational and community programming for both children and adults. Downtown is the heart of our community and this museum is the perfect place to tell the rich history of Springfield. So much of the area's history occurred right outside the windows of the Museum—the Trail of Tears, Civil War encampments, the first quick draw shootout in the Wild West, the Butterfield-Overland Stage route, and Route 66. Preserving and promoting this history while also contributing to downtown revitalization and improved tourism is a gift to the entire community.

Their love of this community is only rivaled by the great love they have for their alma mater Greenwood Laboratory School and surpassed by their love for their family. They

have been married for forty-four years and have three children and eight grandchildren.

Rick and Mary's willingness to serve has led them to participate in all parts of the community including boards of major medical facilities, schools, universities, civic organizations, and their church. They have worked tirelessly to better the community they love so dearly. The History Museum on the Square is proud to award them the inaugural William F. "Rick" McQueary and Mary Haseltine McQueary Groundbreaker Award for their years of dedicated service to the preservation and display of the history of Springfield and Greene County. This award will now be presented annually to an individual, family or corporation making significant contributions to the History Museum on the Square and its mission.

Madam Speaker, it is clear the McQueary's have an unbelievable love for their community and its history and am honored to be able to recognize them today.

RECOGNIZING THE WORKERS AT THE ADVANCED MIXED WASTE TREATMENT PLANT

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great respect and gratitude for the 480 men and women of the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP) as they complete the facility's waste treatment mission for the State of Idaho and the country.

The State of Idaho didn't generate the waste treated at AMWTP, but the citizens of Idaho along with the entire nation benefitted from our nation's unrelenting drive to keep the peace through our strength. In many ways, the waste that the AMWTP team retrieved, characterized, treated, certified, and shipped out of the state was the byproduct of our freedom. It was the legacy of the Cold War. Through their hard work, dedication, and sacrifices, they helped close the chapter on this part of the Cold War.

In addition to the AMWTP employees, we owe Idaho governors Cecil Andrus, John Evans, Dirk Kempthorne, Jim Risch, Phil Batt, C.L. "Butch" Otter, and Brad Little a great thanks for their insistence that this waste would not remain in Idaho in perpetuity over our precious Snake River Plain Aquifer. Our aquifer, our citizens, and our nation are safer with this waste safely disposed of at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

We also owe the Department of Energy (DOE) a heartfelt thank you for committing to this project in the mid-1990s and staying with it until the end. It wasn't easy; it wasn't without contention or disagreements, but all sides worked together for a common goal of success.

The contractors that have been associated with the AMWTP also must be recognized, from BNFL Inc., to Bechtel BWXT, to the Idaho Treatment Group, to the current contractor; Fluor Idaho. The amount of ingenuity, engineering, and technology at this waste treatment facility is unmatched anywhere else in the world. AMWTP, backed by the DOE and its contractors and committed management and employees, had the brawn and brains to