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8/28/2018

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Cory Gardner
U.S. Senate
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Warren and Gardner,

On behalf of **Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe**, I write in support of S. 3032, the Strengthening the Tenth Amendment Through Entrusting States (STATES) Act. In particular, we appreciate the bill's tribal provisions. We are pleased that this legislation respects tribal sovereignty and adheres to the important principle of self-determination by allowing tribal nations, states, and territories to decide for themselves how best to regulate cannabis within their jurisdiction.

Since legalizing cannabis on our reservation our methamphetamine, opioid and alcohol abuse has dropped substantially. Our crime rate has reduced. I have elders using a topical that reduces their opioid use.

Our reservation is in a very remote area therefore we are not on a level playing field as a reservation in a highly populated area and gaming is not a viable economic development venture for us. Through cannabis we will be able to create essential programs, improve health care for our Tribal Citizens through health insurance and have a good solid education program for our people.

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We have a good working relationship with our County and believe that with a good partnership we can be successful moving forward. We have a regulatory cannabis commission that regulates our cannabis operation and make sure policy and procedures are followed at all times.

The STATES Act would reduce uncertainty in federal law, which in turn will enable tribal governments to make sound decisions for themselves, including when it comes to their investments in the cannabis industry. The STATES Act and its tribal provisions represent a stride forward for tribal nations, and we support its enactment. Thank you for your work on this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Tina Braithwaite
Tribal Chairwoman
Vice Chairwoman,
California Native American Cannabis Association
CNACA