



September 17, 2014

The MatSu Business Alliance, Inc. (MSBA) is fully supporting Vote No on Ballot Measure 2 – the Marijuana Initiative. MSBA had a panel of experts at their August noon lunch forum who debated its pros and cons. After evaluating the facts and assessing the significant amount of money being poured into our state by special interests outside of Alaska, we find that the Ballot Measure isn't an Alaskan good-for-business opportunity, but rather an Outsider agenda that's bad-for-business. This ballot measure will impact our community negatively by undermining our current employment practices, enhanced marketing to the younger generations, and the unresolved economic impact, such as overestimated tax revenue source that is significantly less than the actual in newly regulated states, CO and WA.

Most private companies in Alaska are held to high standards with health and safety programs that include mandatory drug testing. These programs are administered by professional companies to ensure the business regulatory compliance contractually and in some cases insurability. No matter how the substance is regulated; the private sector's alcohol and drug surveillance policies will trump all employment opportunities. These policies serve to protect the employer, the employee, and the public.

Why should you vote against the Marijuana Initiative? Locally we have seen a movement to ban smoking in all public places, which is what the community or city voted on collectively. This particular ballot measure was NOT authored by a local city or community but by a national movement that wants to recommend why it is good to expose our children to this business. It is a well-documented fact that marketing will make marijuana seem harmless; which it is not, its active ingredient, cannabini is strong drug that is fat soluble, which makes it hard for the body to get rid of. Cannabis stays in the body for up to 30 days, whereas alcohol and nicotine are water soluble and clear the body in 3 days. Children in our community will be exposed to this marketing. Is that good business?

MSBA is going to fully endorse Vote No on 2, because it is not good business and the overall effects we are seeing in Colorado and Washington are not positive for business owners. Businesses committed to 10 years leases in downtown Denver now have homeless people sitting on milk crates smoking in front of their stores and they can't get out of their leases. The estimated taxes that the government was going to collect hasn't arrived at the state coffer yet. Then again, most cash transactions aren't reportable income. We are a drug free society and are one of the few states that already have a medical marijuana law that works just fine.

MSBA Mission is to promote business development, support Family Wage jobs, and resource development. This ballot measure doesn't align itself with our mission or our customers who live in this community. Listen to your community NOT an outside movement.