



The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of the State of New York
Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

August 26, 2021

Dear Governor Hochul:

New York Cannabis United (NYCU), a coalition of cannabis equity stakeholders, welcomes you as our new Governor of New York. Governor Hochul, we believe your leadership will bring the change needed to transform this state and power a COVID recovery for all. Although the impetus of this transition is a sad chapter for our state's political history, your ascension to this position is an important step towards justice and restoration of integrity to the office of Governor of New York. We particularly look forward to the progress you will bring toward implementing the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA), signed 31 March 2021.

Enclosed with this correspondence is the letter we sent to your predecessor, appealing to him to deliver on the promises of social justice, economic inclusivity, environmental regeneration, and supported opportunities for small businesses within a legal cannabis industry. We urge you to not continue the detrimental delays of Governor Cuomo and instead to take action on appointing the Cannabis Control Board, Cannabis Advisory Board, and Executive Director for the Office of Cannabis Management. We request that you encourage the Senate to reconvene and hold a special session to confirm these appointments.

We hope that your appointments will show a strong commitment to social equity, women, small businesses, and the environment. Your predecessor leaned heavily towards granting input on decisions to those with financial assets and privileged access. This method of operation is counter to the very spirit of the new Cannabis Law, which is to heal and uplift New York through social justice and equity. For social equity applicants to be given an equal starting opportunity and level playing field, the state must provide seed money in the form of loans, technical training, accelerator and incubator programs for those applicants and their small business ventures. It is not acceptable to allow the Registered Organizations, established farmers, or out of state investors an advanced start on the premise the tax dollars collected from their profits can then be used to provide equity

applicants market access at a later date. Delivering social justice must be swift and afford more than lip service and must not continue to be delayed. We are counting on you and your administration to deliver transparency in both the selection of these appointments and in crafting the regulatory infrastructure for the implementation of this law.

NYCU stands ready to assist you in bringing the promises of the MRTA to fruition. We would like to request a meeting with you to discuss the needs of the communities we represent. We look forward to working with your scheduler to find a time on your calendar in the near future. We know there are many pressing issues awaiting your attention; we hope these appointments and ensuring economic inclusivity and a level playing field for the cannabis industry will be among them. We wish you every success in your new position and offer our heartfelt congratulations for a successful tenure as our governor.

Sincerely,

BudsFeed LLC
Cannabis Education Advocacy
Symposium & Expo (CEASE)
Cannaclusive
CannaCultural
Cannasigliere, LLC
Cannaware Society
Community Board 9
Chickweed farms
Conscious Communications
Empire State NORML
Ganja War Veterans for Equity
GHHS, LLC / Uplifting Health &
Wellness
Grass is Greener PR
Harlem Farms
Hemp Lab NYC

Hempire State Growers
Jason Green Consulting
Legal Market Strategies
Little Beach Harvest of Shinnecock
Nation
Mannada, LLC
NY Small Farma
NYC NORML
NYU CannaPolicy
Protest NYC
Return to Rise, Heart Foundation
The Mary Jane Consulting Group
The Cannabis Community
Toke Chiba LLC
Western New York Norml
Willow Kitson
Women of Color in Cannabis

Cc:

New York State Senate, Majority Leader, The Honorable Andrea-Stewart Cousins
New York State Assembly, Speaker, The Honorable Carl Heastie
New York State Senate, The Honorable Liz Krueger
New York State Assembly, Majority Leader, The Honorable Crystal People-Stokes