

Please submit this letter for the 8/17 public hearing on recreational marijuana sales in Southington.

I would like this letter submitted in favor of allowing recreational marijuana sales in town and against the prohibition.

Prohibiting the sale of recreational marijuana in our town only robs our town of much needed tax revenue. Based on state law, it will be legal to possess, consume, and even grow marijuana in Southington. Whether individuals are for or against this is completely irrelevant at this point. That train has long since left the station. Is having our marijuana using residence drive down the road to Bristol or Plainville to purchase their product really worth costing out town what could be \$1m a year in tax revenue?

We've already seen this play out just over the border in Massachusetts. They have successfully opened a growing number of recreational shops and have not seen any major incidents or crime spike as a result. The shops are safe and secure. Guests are IDed to ensure they are of age. Frankly, it's a safer way for individuals to acquire marijuana products that they would surely get another way of not for the shops.

There is clearly massive support for this in town and I am shocked by the resistance I've seen in both town council and on this commission.

The state laws are what they are now. Digging our heels in to restrict via zoning at this point is cutting off our nose to spite our face.

Thank you

Robert Calabrese  
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