



Honorable Daniel J. McKee
Governor, State of Rhode Island
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

October 21, 2025

Dear Governor McKee:

I will be concluding my service as Chairperson of the Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission, effective at close of business today. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve as the inaugural Chairperson of the Commission.

When nominated for this position, I shared a goal for the new Commission: to regulate Rhode Island's adult-use and medical cannabis markets in a manner that is safe, transparent, and equitable. That commitment has guided every decision during my tenure. Serving the State in this capacity has been a privilege, and I am proud of what we have accomplished in such a short time.

Rhode Island has approached this new industry with care and purpose. Together, we drafted the state's first comprehensive set of adult-use regulations, convened seven public bodies, including the Cannabis Advisory Board and its subcommittees, to address key priorities, and coordinated across agencies to ensure public health and safety informed our decisions. We also completed the State's first Social Equity Applicant Status Certification process and opened the inaugural Adult-Use Cannabis Retail License Application period for all license types, including Social Equity Applicants and Workers' Cooperatives. These milestones have laid a strong foundation for the careful expansion of adult-use cannabis retail licensing statewide.

I want to commend you for the nationwide search that led to the appointment of our first Cannabis Office Administrator. Administrator Michelle Reddish has led with integrity, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to success.

It has been an honor to work alongside the dedicated staff of the Cannabis Office to build a strong and effective Commission. I am grateful to every member of our team for their professionalism, collaboration, and commitment to excellence.

Thank you again for this opportunity and for your continued dedication to Rhode Island. I look forward to finding new ways to serve the state we love in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Ahern, Esq.
Chairperson, Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission