



State of Connecticut
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

June 22, 2026

Governor Ned Lamont
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Martin Looney
300 Capitol Avenue
Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Stephen Harding
300 Capitol Avenue
Room 3400
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Matt Ritter
300 Capitol Avenue
Room 4105
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Bob Duff
300 Capitol Avenue
Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Jason Rojas
300 Capitol Avenue
Room 4106
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont and Legislative Leaders,

We are writing to express our deep disappointment with the cannabis compact between the State of Connecticut and the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe. There are serious concerns that this agreement creates an uneven playing field for Connecticut businesses, raises significant questions regarding state oversight, and potentially diverts substantial tax revenue away from Connecticut taxpayers. Not to mention the serious potential health risks to Connecticut citizens.

Under the compact, Tribal Enterprises are permitted to cultivate, manufacture, transport, deliver, and sell cannabis throughout Connecticut while operating under a separate regulatory framework and tax structure. Although the compact requires tribal regulations, enforcement authority ultimately remains with the Tribe, not the State. This creates a situation where Connecticut license holders remain subject to direct State regulation and enforcement while their competitors operate under a fundamentally different system.

The tax structure is puzzling. The compact expressly exempts Tribal Entities from state and municipal taxation during the course of commercial transactions with state licensees, regardless of whether such transactions occur on or outside of Tribal Lands. However, when such transactions occur on Tribal Lands, the Tribe may impose and retain its own tribal tax rather than remitting those revenues to the State. Connecticut cannabis businesses have invested millions of dollars, paid licensing fees, complied with extensive regulations, and contribute tax revenue to the State. It is difficult to explain to those businesses why their competitors are being granted the ability to participate in the same marketplace while operating under a different tax arrangement.

We are also concerned by provisions authorizing statewide delivery and commercial transactions between Tribal Enterprises and Connecticut licensees. These provisions have the potential to significantly reshape Connecticut's cannabis market without meaningful legislative debate or public hearings, as well as the requisite economic and public health impact analyses. The compact effectively creates a parallel market structure with significant economic and regulatory implications, all without the level of legislative scrutiny that would accompany similar policy changes if proposed through statute.

It is troubling that while the State is just beginning to come to grips with the serious health implications associated with the use of high-potency THC cannabis, it has simultaneously decided to significantly expand its availability. Legislators deserve the opportunity to fully examine agreements that carry such serious consequences for commerce, taxation, and public policy.

For these reasons, we believe the compact raises serious concerns that warrant further review and public discussion. We remain disappointed that an agreement of this magnitude was executed without broader legislative involvement and a thorough public examination of its long-term impacts.

Sincerely,



Representative Vincent Candelora
House Republican Leader



Representative David Rutigliano
General Law Committee – Ranking Member

cc:
General Law Committee Members