To: "LeMaster, Sara" <Sara.LeMaster@ct.gov>
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Good morning,
The State of Connecticut has entered a Cannabis Compact with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Please see the **embargoed** press release below.

Governor Lamont and Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation Sign Historic Cannabis Compact

The compact creates framework for Mashantucket Pequot Tribe to establish and regulate its own cannabis industry on tribal land, and access existing state cannabis market

HARTFORD — Governor Ned Lamont and Rodney Butler, chairman of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, today announced they have signed Connecticut's first tribal-state cannabis compact. The new compact recognizes the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe's regulation of its own cannabis industry on tribal lands and allows for participation in the Connecticut market by selling to and buying from state licensees.

The Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use Cannabis Act, passed in June 2021, allows the Governor of Connecticut to enter into a compact with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut, or both. This agreement coordinates state and tribal rules about possessing, producing, delivering, processing, and using cannabis.

The Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, a sovereign nation, also enacted in 2021 the "Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation Cannabis Regulatory Act" to comprehensively regulate the cannabis industry on Tribal Lands.

The Tribe has not yet authorized any adult-use cannabis businesses, but the compact will allow any future tribal-licensed cannabis businesses to access the state's licensed production, wholesale and distribution chain and to transact business with state licensees.

"We have enjoyed a long-standing positive relationship with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, built on respect for tribal sovereignty," said **Gov. Ned Lamont.** "Together, we recognized the need for cooperation and collaboration with regard to cannabis regulation in the state and on Tribal Lands. This collaborative effort ensures public health and safety remains the top priority, provides clarity concerning criminal and civil enforcement, and creates a framework that respects tribal jurisdiction while allowing increased participation in the state's adult-use cannabis market."

"This compact marks yet another milestone in the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe's exercise of its sovereignty and self-determination," said **Mashantucket Pequot Chairman Rodney Butler.** "It strengthens our government-to-government partnership with the State of Connecticut, and opens the door to future commerce between tribally-licensed cannabis businesses and state licensees."

“DCP looks forward to working with the Tribe and any future Tribal-licensed cannabis entities to ensure public health and safety in the marketplace,” said **DCP Commissioner Bryan T. Cafferelli.**

The compact is an agreement between only the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and the State of Connecticut.

The new compact covers:

- How criminal and civil cannabis laws are enforced
- Rules for possessing, producing, delivering, processing, or using cannabis
- Tax laws and regulations related to cannabis
- How the tribe will protect public health and safety and ensure security at cannabis facilities on tribal land (such as production, processing, testing, or retail sites)
- Regulate cannabis-related business that moves between tribal land and other areas of the state

A summary of the Compact and answers to frequently asked questions are available at ct.gov/Cannabis. A copy of the signed compact is attached and available at ct.gov/Cannabis.

For additional information about state-tribal compacts, view our informational article.

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