

22 May 22, 2013

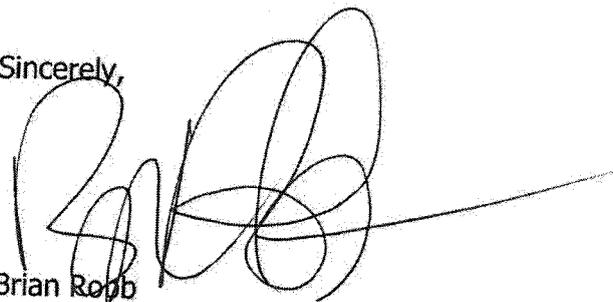
Dear Chairman Cotter and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee,

I currently serve on the Ypsilanti City Council. During much of 2010, we worked to establish ordinances for the licensing of medical marihuana dispensaries and growing facilities. In 2011, the City of Ypsilanti became the first municipality in the State to license dispensaries. There are now six provision centers and one growing facility operating in Ypsilanti with several more applications for licenses in process.

The existing dispensaries occupy space in our commercial districts where they have invested in the properties, renovated retail space, and created jobs. The dispensaries draw visitors to the area that spend time and money in our local restaurants and shops. In addition to operating their businesses, they have become involved in the community as members of business and merchant groups and have actively supported events that promote our city. They have made a concerted effort to be not just another business operating in the city, but to be members of the community.

By embracing rather than seeking restrictions to the Medical Marihuana Act, Ypsilanti has seen economic development without any adverse consequences. A scenario, in which Michigan cities and towns are more formally directed to make the choice whether to embrace this opportunity, is a discussion and action that I support. I have witnessed first-hand that it works for the people who choose to participate in the Michigan Medical Marihuana Program and for the City of Ypsilanti.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Robb', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brian Robb
Ypsilanti City Council, Ward 3