

July 9, 2024

Via Electronic Mail

Massachusetts Senate

**Re: Cannabis Control Commission**

Dear Senator:

Good day.

I am writing to you to follow-up on my letter of June 18, 2024 regarding my recommendation relative to a receiver for the Cannabis Control Commission (Commission). I want to take this opportunity to provide you with my testimony this morning before the House members of the Cannabis Policy Committee, a Boston Globe editorial from June 24, 2024, and the text of a proposed amendment to create the receiver. I believe the need to appoint a receiver before the formal Legislative session ends on July 31st is necessary in order to provide clarity and direction for the daily operations of the Commission and to help protect this fragile, emerging industry. This action will provide a greater measure of immediate confidence in the Commission while allowing the more complex restructuring discussion to occur in the next legislative session.

As I explained in my June 18 letter, the Commission's enabling statute assigns the same authority to two positions – the Chair and the Executive Director. I believe this language is at the root of all the problems at the Commission. I have recommended the Legislature appoint a receiver now because the Commission itself cannot fix this problem and with the passage of time, the issues are only growing. A receiver is only a temporary measure while the Legislature revisits the statute to refine the language to ensure that the leadership at the Commission has clear direction to carry out its mission. Because the current legislative session is coming to a close, the Legislature can address the issues in a timely manner by appointing a receiver while it thoughtfully considers amending the statute.

While the Office of the Inspector General is more widely known for its fraud investigations, we are equally concerned about the mitigation of and elimination of waste of public funds and resources. What we have identified at the Commission is waste. This must be addressed and corrected to ensure the integrity of the cannabis industry.

Lastly, I would like to bring to your attention a proposed amendment to S2856, *An Act Relative to Strengthening Massachusetts' Economic Leadership*. Senator Moore has filed amendment 163 which will create a receiver for the Commission. I respectfully request that you review this amendment and seek your support for this amendment.

Massachusetts Senate

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 617-722-8806 or [Jeffrey.S.Shapiro@mass.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.S.Shapiro@mass.gov) or Joshua Giles, Government Outreach and Public Policy Division, at 617-722-8828 or [Joshua.Giles@mass.gov](mailto:Joshua.Giles@mass.gov).

Thank you for your leadership and further consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey S. Shapiro, Esq., CIG  
Inspector General

Enclosures:

Letter to President Spilka, Speaker Mariano, Minority Leader Tarr and Minority Leader Jones Regarding Oversight of the CCC, June 18, 2024, Inspector General Jeffrey Shapiro

Senator Moore, Receiver Amendment 163

Editorial, Boston Globe, June 24, 2024

IG's Testimony Before the Cannabis Policy Committee, July 9, 2024, with Appendix attached

cc (by email):

Joshua Giles, Director, Government Outreach and Public Policy Division, OIG

Nataliya Urciuoli, Senior Executive Assistant, OIG