

**John Hausladen Remarks – SAMMn News Conference  
Minnesota Trucking Association**

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is John Hausladen, President of the Minnesota Trucking Association and a leader of Minnesotan's Against Marijuana Legalization. This coalition is committed to limiting the expansion of recreational cannabis and includes school bus operators, utility contractors, law enforcement, the faith community and safety organizations.

I am here today to voice opposition to the draft cannabis legislation. Bottom line, this legislation will negatively impact the health and safety of Minnesota's roadways, workplaces and economy.

First, we are now 98 days since the bill was introduced and 29 hearings through the process, and we are not even ONE step closer to an instantaneous test to determine impairment for cannabis users while driving.

We know firsthand from other states that when cannabis use is legalized accidents involving cannabis increase.

In Colorado, fatal accidents involving cannabis rose 138% following legalization. In Washington, the share of drivers involved in fatal crashes who tested positive for THC intoxication doubled after legalization.

The fact that there is no .08-type instant roadside test to hold impaired drivers accountable is a glaring omission from these bills.

Second, legalization will reduce the number of workers available for industries that are already subject to federally-mandated drug testing, like trucking..

Looking again to Colorado, a Minnesota-based fleet with operations in Colorado reports that since legalization it has become significantly more difficult to hire drivers. Applicants simply can't pass the pre-employment drug test. This is something we cannot risk here in Minnesota, where hiring is already difficult and supply chains already fragile.

Lastly, I echo many of the sentiments already shared. This legislation still lacks adequate protections to prevent marketing of THC products to youth, funding to support increased addiction treatment, and resources for law officers to ensure any new regulations are properly enforced.

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Some call opponents fear mongers. No, we are truth tellers, with data and experience regarding the negative impacts that really do happen when states legalize recreational cannabis. We don't need a crystal ball to know what is going to happen, only a rearview mirror.

To lawmakers I say this: Do not be afraid to do this the right way. Take the time to prioritize the safety of your constituents and consider the adverse ramifications of legalization on our economy, labor markets and public health.

Thank you.