From: Joy Price
To: Haddon, Stacey

Subject: Cannabis Industry"s Fair Share

Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 2:15:23 PM

Thank you for taking the time to read through my thoughts on the issue of the Cannabis Industry paying its fair share of taxes in Lompoc. I have lived in Lompoc for the past two years. It is a lovely city with nice people and I feel at home here. As the pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Lompoc, I consider the church and its members to be stakeholders in the success or failure of Lompoc. We have been a worshiping community in Lompoc since 1876 and have always supported the City and its citizens in building a positive place to live for all people.

The local Cannabis shops have been good neighbors since they arrived in Lompoc. They pay their fair share of taxes at 6% which is a great benefit to the local community. However, their suppliers and growers pay nothing in taxes to support the local community. I think they should pay up. Without the support of the local community, there would be no Cannabis Industry in Lompoc. The suppliers/growers would have no place to legally distribute their products. When an industry enters a community is should be responsible for the support of that community and its citizens. Lompocians have been saddled with an industry that is no better than a deadbeat parent, who refuses to support his/her own children. Local shops alone should not be the soul tax payers, their Industry should also pay a share.

Lompoc is a community that has many needs, from enhanced public services, to improved parks and recreation, to city infrastructure. All of these support the Cannabis Industry, however, as Lompoc goes, so goes the Cannabis Industry. Failure to support this city that provides a home for the Industry will lead to the failure of both the Industry and the city.

Let's see some true support from those who are currently taking advantage of Lompoc.

Sincerely, Rev. Joy A. Price, Pastor First United Methodist Church of Lompoc