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VIA email - Angela.Hill@sen.ca.gov

October 5, 2021

Re: SB 519

Dear Senator Scott Wiener,

This email is being sent to you in concern of your recent legislative introduction of Senate Bill 519 which is attempting, among other issues, to legalize the personal possession and social sharing of mescaline, psilocybin mushrooms, LSD, ketamine, MDMA, and ibogaine.

This bill is presented as decriminalization of psychedelics and as an end to the war on drugs, however the war on drugs has capitalized on the mass incarceration of black, Indian, and people of color. SB 519 is about legalization, exploitation, extraction, and commercialization for non-Indian people to legally acquire Indian plant medicines and culturally appropriate Indian practices. This is a continuation of neocolonialism and potential ecocide of slow-growth, sacred medicine plants and cultural genocide. This bill also opens to the door to legalizing synthetic mescaline, psilocybin, iboga, and all done without consent from the traditional Indian plant care takers of these medicines.

This bill could potentially impact hundreds of thousands of American Indian people who rely on these plants as their primary sources of medicine. Additionally, no language in this bill addresses sustainability measures or the needs of these plant medicines from American Indian perspectives. Though the bill includes wording around reciprocity and reparations, these topics cannot be done without considerable involvement with American Indian stakeholders and global American Indian leaders of these traditional medicines.

Mescaline is the active compound in Peyote and cannot be defined as a separate psychedelic compound. To include mescaline in this bill will have a direct detrimental impact to Peyote populations, its habitat, and Native American and Indian cultures who use the plant medicine.

As California Tribal members, Tribal members from across Indian Country, members of Native American Churches, and plant medicine allies we call on you, Senator Wiener, to remove mescaline and synthetic mescaline from Senate Bill 519 and to also mandate that studies on the impacts that this bill will have on the sacred plant medicine Peyote, its habitat, and the marginalized communities who rely on it be conducted.

Respectfully,

Jon Brady

Jon Brady,
President