

Don Murphy Explores GOP Attitudes Toward Cannabis Legislation

Don Murphy Urges Cannabis Industry to Engage at Political Events

Don Murphy, founder of the American Cannabis Collective, is calling on the cannabis industry to increase its political engagement. In a recent episode of the “Trade to Black” podcast, Murphy emphasized the importance of the industry’s presence at significant political events, such as the Republican National Convention (RNC), to advance the conversation around cannabis legislation and secure legislative wins.

Shifting Republican Stance on Cannabis

Murphy highlighted a significant shift in the Republican Party’s approach to cannabis. Contrary to popular belief, Republicans are not strictly adhering to ideological politics regarding cannabis. “Democrats play identity politics, but Republicans do not play ideology politics. I shouldn’t be here if Trump is so bad as folks might think... If he was so bad on cannabis, I would have been vetted and tossed out,” Murphy stated. This stance is further underscored by the openness of many GOP members to discuss cannabis issues, indicating a broader cultural shift within the party.

Importance of Industry Engagement

A recurring theme in Murphy’s discussion was the cannabis industry’s missed opportunities in engaging with key political figures. He stressed the importance of the industry’s presence at significant political events to advance the conversation and secure legislative wins. “The industry should be here. There are one hundred and twenty-five most conservative, influential Republicans in Florida... If measure three, amendment three is going to pass and you want to get to those people, this is where they are,” Murphy urged.

Murphy lamented the absence of industry representatives at the RNC, highlighting the need for proactive engagement. “They’re not going to hear that comment this week... I’m going to take a little shot at the industry. You guys should be not you, but well, you should be here. But they should be,” he pointed out.

Key Legislative Points: SAFE Banking Act and Rescheduling

The importance of the SAFE Banking Act and potential rescheduling of cannabis were key points in Murphy’s discussion. The SAFE Banking Act aims to provide a legal framework for cannabis businesses to access banking services, a critical step towards normalizing the industry. “Project Chokepoint gets fixed with SAFE Banking. I should change the name and call it the Project Chokepoint Fix Bill or something, because that’s of more value to most Republicans than SAFE Banking,” Murphy explained.

Rescheduling cannabis from a Schedule I to a Schedule III substance could significantly reduce legal hurdles and potential penalties associated with cannabis. Murphy expressed confidence in this potential change,

stating, “I think President Trump, like many other people, knows folks who are using marijuana for medical purposes and so that’s why I think Schedule 3 is so safe.”

Political Strategy and Future Outlook

Murphy also touched on the political strategy surrounding cannabis legislation. He emphasized that while Trump’s stance on cannabis rescheduling remains uncertain, he is likely aware of its popularity. “I don’t see Donald Trump sticking his finger in the eye of 80% of Americans,” Murphy remarked.

Don Murphy’s insights from the RNC highlight the importance of proactive political engagement for the cannabis industry. By building relationships with policymakers and advocating for key legislative changes like the SAFE Banking Act and the rescheduling of cannabis, the industry can support its growth and secure a more favorable regulatory environment. Murphy’s call to action serves as a crucial reminder for the cannabis sector to engage actively in political events to advance its interests and address critical issues facing the industry.

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