

Cannabis Farmers in New Mexico Face Challenges in Transporting Product

Some cannabis farmers in New Mexico are facing significant hurdles in transporting their product to northern parts of the state, encountering seizures by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at checkpoints.

CBP Seizures

Under federal law, CBP continues to seize cannabis at checkpoints located in Southern New Mexico, despite the legalization of cannabis in the state.

Affected Growers

Notable growers such as Smokey Road Farms and Desert Peaks Farms have had their products seized, resulting in substantial financial losses. Ryan Strand, owner of Smokey Roads Farms, reported a loss of approximately \$20,000 worth of product.

Impact on Distribution

Farmers like Strand and Isabella Rich, owner of Desert Peaks Farms, typically sell their crop to northern parts of the state, including Albuquerque, Farmington, and Ruidoso. However, the threat of seizures has forced them to seek alternative distribution methods while adhering to state laws.

Financial Ramifications

For Rich, the seizures have compelled her to restrict sales of cannabis to the southern part of the state, severely affecting her business. The loss of a significant portion of her spring harvest had a substantial financial impact, including payroll expenses.

Perplexing Enforcement

Rich expressed confusion regarding the sudden enforcement of seizures, questioning why this issue has arisen now, despite operating in the Las Cruces area since cannabis legalization.

CBP Statement

In response to inquiries, CBP reiterated the federal illegality of marijuana, regardless of state laws. They emphasized that arriving at a U.S. port of entry or Border Patrol checkpoint with marijuana could result in seizure, fines, and/or arrest.

Collaborative Efforts

To address these challenges, cannabis farmers have formed a coalition and initiated dialogue with the government to protect themselves from future seizures. Matt Kennicott, owner of High Maintenance Farms in northern New Mexico, highlighted the collaborative efforts of the coalition in navigating these issues.

Quantifying Losses

Kennicott revealed that approximately \$370,000 worth of products have been seized by CBP at checkpoints, underscoring the significant impact on the industry.

The challenges faced by cannabis farmers in transporting their products highlight the complexities and legal ambiguities surrounding marijuana regulation at the state and federal levels. As stakeholders work towards resolution, the cannabis industry in New Mexico remains in a precarious position, navigating the intersection of state legalization and federal enforcement.

Email: info@cannabisriskmanager.com | Phone: +855-507-2622

© Copyright 2025 Cannabis Risk Manager. All Rights Reserved