

Washington Cannabis  
Tax Act petition inside!

Campaign for the Restoration and Regulation of Hemp

# Hemp News

Cannabis Tax Act  
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## Washington's I-229 Launched

Oregon Petition over 15,000 Signatures as of August 18th, Oregon has till July 2000 to get 67,000 Required for Vote

CRRH has received a significant, six figure donation that has allowed us to launch a petition drive in Washington state to put the new Washington Cannabis Tax Act (WCTA) on the ballot. The WCTA needs about 180,000 signatures of Washington state's registered voters by December 31, 1999 to qualify. Since we need a buffer of additional signatures to ensure qualification, we will need to turn in about 250,000 signatures to cover the invalid and illegible signatures. Our Washington state initiative is known as I-229.

A copy of the Washington Cannabis Tax Act petition is printed inside this newspaper. If you are registered to vote in Washington, please turn page 3 of this newspaper, sign the petition and fold that entire sheet, staple it and mail it back to us. We have printed our business reply permit on the page inside, so it's free for you. Please only have other registered Washington voters sign this sheet. Please be sure to mail your signatures back to us.

In Washington, there are two types of initiative processes. One is a direct path to place a petition on the ballot for a vote. The other is a referral to the legislature. The WCTA is a referral to the Washington state legislature. Upon qualification of a legislative referral, the Washington legislature has three options. First, they can vote to enact the bill as written. Next, they can draft their own bill and place both the referral as written and their own version up for a vote. If the Washington legislature chose this second option, there would be two WCTA proposals on the November 7, 1999 ballot, I-229A and I-229B. However, finally, the most likely course for this petition is that the Washington state legislature will just put the single issue itself up for a vote on November 7, 2000.

CRRH has hired a professional petition company to implement and complete the paid petition drive in Washington state. Kimball Petition Management, which has extensive experience placing initiatives on the ballot in many states, including Washington, will conduct the paid petition drive for Washington state.

CRRH kicked off it's petition drive at the largest rally against cannabis prohibition on the West Coast, the Seattle Hempfest on August 22, 1999.

If you would like to help the WCTA qualify for a vote, or to help CRRH's Oregon drive, or if you would like to help start a CRRH petition drive in your area, please contact us.

### Actor Woody Harrelson, judge clash in pot trial

By Denny Walsh  
Sacramento Bee  
May 21, 1999

SACRAMENTO, CA - An angry confrontation between Woody Harrelson and a federal judge erupted Thursday during a marijuana cultivation trial in a Sacramento courtroom, nearly U.S. District Judge Garland E. Burrell Jr. ultimately warned Harrelson, who first gained fame on the "Cheers" sitcom, that he might find himself behind bars if he continued to defy the court. "How do you sleep at night?" Harrelson shot back before stepping down from the witness stand.

Harrelson, known for his eco-activism as well as his roles in movies ranging from "Indecent Proposal" to "Natural Born Killers," appeared as a defense witness Thursday in the trial of Trinity County resident B.E. Smith. Smith's is the first criminal marijuana trial in a California federal court since the passage of Proposition 215, a state law allowing pot to be smoked by those obtaining medical authorization. Eventually, the case could establish a precedent for how the California measure will be handled in federal courts. Harrelson called Smith, an outspoken advocate of medicinal marijuana, "my good friend and mentor" and the "last free man in America." The fireworks ignited when Harrelson disobeyed Burrell's orders, then verbally attacked the judge after he was admonished from the bench. Leading up to the tense exchange, Assistant U.S. Attorney R. Steven Lapham objected to some questions from defense lawyer Thomas Ballanco and Burrell sustained the objections. A couple of times, Harrelson answered anyway.

"Are you surprised to see Mr. Smith on trial here today?" asked Ballanco. Lapham's objection was sustained, but Harrelson said, "Certainly, for a medical marijuana case, I consider it odd." Burrell told Harrelson he must obey rulings on objections. "I'm just wondering why you're keeping the truth from the jury," said Harrelson, referring to a pretrial ruling by Burrell that Smith would not be able to cite medicinal use and Proposition 215. At that point, Burrell excused the jury and quoted case law to Harrelson o a judge's power to control courtroom behavior. "I didn't think you had much respect for the law," the actor fired back. "You have attempted to put issues before the jury I have ruled non-admissible," said Burrell, warning Harrelson that he might be arrested if his defiance continued. "Do you understand?" Burrell demanded. Harrelson gave the judge a hard stare, then looked away. Burrell refused to allow Ballanco to continue questioning Harrelson regarding Smith's reputation as an honest, law-abiding citizen. He ruled such testimony would be cumulative since Harrelson had already said that Smith is "always truthful" and "has a great deal of integrity." "I suspect you've brought this witness here to disrupt this trial," the judge told Ballanco. Burrell directed Harrelson to step down but, as he departed the witness stand, the

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### What the CTA Petition will do

- **Protect children!** This is the real "Protect Our Children" initiative. The Cannabis Tax Act (CTA) will take the lucrative marijuana market out of the black-market where children and substance abusers often control it today, and place it in state liquor stores, where the age limit of 21 and older is strictly enforced.
- **Help farmers!** We will license farmers to cultivate cannabis for both medicinal and adult private use. Farmers will be able to grow industrial hemp without a license, for paper, fabric, protein and oil.
- **Fix the problems caused by the medical marijuana petitions that passed.** This will allow doctors to prescribe untaxed cannabis through pharmacies, so patients won't have to grow their own or by medicine illegally.
- **Raise millions of dollars in new public revenue,** lowering the tax burden on us all and saving you money. Take the profit out of crime. Save money.
- **Restore industrial hemp,** the most productive agricultural source of fiber protein and oil. Hemp seed oil is diesel fuel. The first cordage, cloth and paper were invented from hemp fiber.
- **Wipe out the black-market.** The CTA allows police and the courts to concentrate on real criminals that hurt others, not arrest, prosecute and jail harmless, productive adult cannabis users. Stop our government from tearing families apart. Let's show real family values and end cannabis prohibition.

Washington and Oregon Cannabis Tax Act  
petitions currently in circulation.

**Help CRRH launch a CTA petition in your state!**

### Switzerland Leads the World Toward Regulation of Illegal Drugs

#### Swiss Allows Sale of Marijuana and Gives Heroin Addicts Prescriptions

BY D. PAUL STANFORD, CRRH DIRECTOR

Switzerland is the most democratic and richest country in the world. The Swiss began forming their confederation of different cantons and cultures with 4 different official languages and several dominant religions about 700 years ago. They have had an initiative process since the 1840s and use it to decide all major government policies, by direct votes of their citizens.

Over the past year and a half, the Swiss have held several votes that have validated their government's progressive policies on drug control policy. In the 1980s, Swiss cities and cantons began giving heroin addicts their opiate and places for them to inject it. Starting in 1995, the Swiss have allowed the semi-legal sale of cannabis in shops that have opened all around their country. The Swiss voted in November 1997 by 71 percent against an initiative to end heroin addiction maintenance and increase other penalties for drugs. On April 24, 1999, a panel of Swiss government officials announced plans to regulate and license the explosion of the legal marijuana market. A vote on marijuana regulation has not yet been scheduled. However, on June 13, 1999, the Swiss voted in favor of expanding the medical provision of heroin to addicts with a doctor's prescription.



Photo of Legal Swiss Hemp Farm

Marijuana sales shops, "hanf" stores, have opened all over Switzerland. When I visited several hanf stores there last year, many of them had cannabis plants growing in their front window, some had dozens of trimmers inside manicuring marijuana flowers, and all of them sold cannabis flowers, hemp fiber products and cannabis growing equipment. Marijuana

plants are in about a third of the many personal gardens one can see all across Switzerland. Hemp drink advertisement posters with cannabis leaves are found in all the railway stations and even shop windows in rural areas. Switzerland has more shops selling cannabis than the Netherlands now, and the Swiss are now proposing to regulate this market. The proposed Swiss cannabis regulations are much like CRRH's Cannabis Tax Act, due to international treaties that govern the way controlled substances can be sold. Switzerland will continue to lead the world toward the integration of the adult cannabis market and industrial hemp, and the medicalization of other drugs.