I feel compelled to write to all members of the City Council and Planning Commission in regards to the Cannabis ordinance that will come before City Council for further discussion, as I feel this is a very important issue in our City.

At our last Planning Commission meeting held on October 11, 2018, there was a 3 to 1 vote to remove/strike out the word "packaging" as described under CANNABIS ACCESSORIES on page 6. If you were to remove the word packaging, this would allow for the storage of small boxes used to package cannabis for wholesale/retail or end user sales, which does happen outside of this City's limits. I was the one who voted against the removal of this word because I believe by allowing the storage of ANY item that supports this industry; this sends a mixed message to the people and youth of El Segundo. There is a long established community organization called ROAD (Reach Out Against Drugs) that works closely with the School District to support the education of a substance free lifestyle. This City needs to support the message of ROAD by continuing a strong stance against any business wishing to store packaging used for cannabis sales, or any other illegal/addictive drug. I am in absolute favor of a 100% ban of any physical item or product associated with, or used for, the sale of anything in the cannabis industry. My colleagues compared their decision to approve the removal of the word "packaging" with the storage of empty shampoo bottles. If only this were shampoo! From a land use perspective, there is a slippery slope once this City Council decides to open up or relax the high standards long established in saying NO to all drugs in El Segundo. We are talking about a class one drug that is so controversial the state and federal government cannot agree on its future. Would it be OK to approve the storage of packaging that cocaine or heroin were delivered/sold in? The perception of the message should be the same.

By adding back to this paragraph the word packaging, this will continue the ever important message of our 100% say no to drugs our Community should continue to represent.

Also it is important to note that in doing so, this will not affect any rights of our Citizens who choose or need to legally use Cannabis.

I appreciate your consideration.

Brenda Newman
Vice Chair, Planning Commission
City of El Segundo