Banking Services for Marijuana-related Businesses
Communications, Financial Services & Interstate Commerce Committee
Monday, Aug. 8, 2016
1 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Session Agenda and Speaker Biographies

Alaska, Colorado, Oregon, Washington and the District of Columbia now allow the recreational use of marijuana. Twenty-five states, the District of Columbia and Guam allow medical marijuana. These businesses are struggling to find banks and credit unions willing and able to work with them despite recent federal guidance for financial institutions. Colorado tried to create a cooperative and was denied approval for deposit insurance. Bills are pending in Congress that ease federal restrictions. Hear about efforts to help the industry move beyond the cash-only model.

1:00 – 1:10 p.m. Welcome and Introductions
Diana Clay, House Majority Research, Arizona
Legislative Staff Vice-Chair
Communications, Financial Services & Interstate Commerce Committee

1:10 – 1:50 p.m. Speakers’ Remarks

1:10 – 1:20
Don Childears, President & CEO, Colorado Bankers Association, Colorado

1:20 – 1:30
Taylor West, Deputy Director, National Cannabis Industry Association, Colorado

1:30 – 1:40
Senator Bill Coley, Ohio

1:40 – 1:50
Representative Jennifer Williamson, House Majority Leader, Oregon

1:50 – 2:15 p.m. Discussion & Questions from the Audience
Don Childears  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Colorado Bankers Association  
Colorado  
President/CEO of the Colorado Bankers Association, Don Childears has served CBA since 1975, preceded by legislative and campaign work for a Congressman. He’s completed his Juris Doctor from University of Denver College of Law, and BSBA from Colorado State University, where he was student body president. Community activities vary including: First Amendment Council, Referenda C & D Finance Committee, Civil Justice League, Governor’s Y2K TF, Kids Voting, Housing Council, two graduate schools of banking, and political activities and campaigns. Business activities include ABA BankPac, Colorado Competitive Council Steering Committee, BancInsure, a publishing company, a network predating the internet, and a burglar alarm company. He frequently speaks (NBC Nightly News, ABA’s Annual Convention) and teaches government, political influence, and banking. Numerous awards include a Special Tribute by U.S. Senator Allard. He’s from Saguache (rural Colorado town) and is married to Linda, President of the Daniels Fund ($1.1B charitable foundation) and previous President of the Young Americans Bank (youth financial literacy pioneer) in Denver.

Bill Coley  
State Senator  
Ohio  
Senator Bill Coley is serving his first full term in the Ohio Senate, representing the majority of Butler County as the Senator for the 4th Ohio Senate District. Prior to his appointment to the Senate, Senator Coley was elected to four terms in the Ohio House of Representatives where his background in finance matters led him to be named chairman of the House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development Committee. Currently in the Senate, he is the Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Government Oversight and Reform and is a member of Controlling Board, which provides legislative oversight over certain capital and operating expenditures by state agencies and has approval authority over various other state fiscal activities. Senator Coley also serves as the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Gaming and Wagering, as well as the Vice-Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance, the powerful committee charged with reviewing the state’s biennial budget proposal. In addition to his legislative duties, Senator Coley works as a commercial litigation attorney with the firm Strauss and Troy and is licensed to practice in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. An active member of his community, Coley is involved in the Butler County Republican Party, St. John’s Catholic Church, Sons of the American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America. Coley’s legislative efforts have garnered him a number of awards. He has been named a Watchdog of the Treasury by the United Conservatives of Ohio and received the Robert R. Cupp Legislative Award from the eTech Ohio Commission. Coley received his bachelor’s degree in finance from the University of Dayton and his law degree from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. A licensed pilot, he and his wife Carolyn live in Liberty Township.

Taylor West  
Deputy Director  
National Cannabis Industry Association  
Colorado  
Taylor West is deputy director of the National Cannabis Industry Association. She has spent more than a decade in communications and leadership positions in the political, policy, nonprofit, and business arenas. Taylor came to Denver after four years in Washington, D.C., where she worked first as a strategist for a variety of policy and regulatory reform efforts, and then as communications director for National Journal, a highly respected national media organization. She is also a veteran of several high-profile political campaigns and has appeared as a commentator on MSNBC, Fox News, and CNBC. Taylor first became involved in drug policy reform 15 years ago with an internship at DRCNet, now known as StoptheDrugWar.org.
Jennifer Williamson  
House Majority Leader  
Oregon  

A fourth generation Oregonian, Jennifer Williamson knows Oregon is a very special place. Born and raised on a farm in Washington County, she was taught the values of hard work and education early in life. Jennifer brings those lessons every day to her service in the Oregon House. Jennifer received her education from Oregon schools. Worried that she wouldn’t be able to afford to finish college, she first got involved in politics when she worked with her fellow students to stop cuts to financial aid. After graduating from the University of Oregon, she went to work for Senator Mark Hatfield in Washington, D.C., to ensure all Oregonians have access to higher education. She received her law degree, cum laude, from Willamette University and was an attorney in Portland at Davis, Wright, Tremain. Jennifer also worked in public affairs at Portland State University and served on Superintendent Susan Castillo’s executive team at the Oregon Department of Education. Since her election in 2012, Jennifer has become a leading voice for reforming our criminal justice system and expanding investments in education, mental health care, drug treatment and victim services. She led the effort in the Oregon House to require criminal background checks for all gun purchases and worked to close a loophole so at-fault corporations can no longer avoid paying court-ordered class action penalties when they injure or defraud someone. Jennifer has been a champion for women’s health care and expanding access to contraception for all Oregon women. She supported a statewide paid sick days law and sponsored a program to help more Oregonians save for retirement. Representative Williamson’s strong leadership was recognized by her colleagues in the Democratic caucus when she was elected House Majority Leader in July 2015. Jennifer is married to Paul Loving, an attorney. They live in NW Portland with their dog Hamilton. Jennifer’s stepdaughter is a student at the University of Oregon.