



Cannabis Legalization Debated at MJ Unpacked Convention

In the News

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In the article "[Cannabis Legalization Debated at MJ Unpacked Convention](#)," Heady NJ wrote about the cannabis legalization debate that took place at the recent MJ Unpacked conference in Atlantic City. Cannabis industry experts gathered to discuss the challenges and opportunities surrounding federal and state legalization. The conversation explored the regulatory landscape, political hurdles, and court rulings affecting the cannabis space.

Archer [Cannabis Group](#) Chair [Bill Caruso](#) played a prominent role in the discussion, voicing both caution and optimism. He emphasized the significance of politics in shaping the industry, stating, "At the end of the day, we're not immune to politics. Politics matter... we need to recognize how the industry changes." Despite current obstacles, he remains hopeful about the future, especially in New Jersey, noting, "Jersey's got a fantastic market. I think the popularity of cannabis is growing. I think we're going to see more people lean in."

Bill also pointed to the courts as key arenas for reform, highlighting their current role as drivers of innovation in cannabis and hemp law: "If you're looking for reform... the courts have been where the action's at."

In terms of advocacy, he stressed grassroots efforts and local engagement, encouraging stakeholders to speak directly with legislators: "Be your own lobbyist... Your members of Congress need to hear about the economic development you're doing." He underscored the importance of sharing success stories with policymakers, as public support continues to rise: "We all need to be in the ears of our representatives... the polling is off the charts on this."

Overall, Bill's insights reflected a strategic, grounded approach—focusing on legislative awareness, judicial trends, and community-based advocacy to push the cannabis industry forward.

Along with Bill, the other panel experts included panel moderator Debra Borchardt, former Green Market Report Editor; Saphira Galoob, lobbyist for the United States Cannabis Roundtable; and Felicia Reid, Executive Director, New York Office of Cannabis Management.

Related People



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