A Resolution to Oppose “The Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act”

 And the Creation of a Commercial Marijuana Industry

in the Commonwealth and This Community

Whereas: “The Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act,” an initiative petition to be placed upon the November 2016 ballot, would create a billion-dollar commercial marijuana industry in Massachusetts to promote and support the consumption of so-called “recreational” marijuana by residents and visitors to the Commonwealth and its 351 cities and towns.

Whereas: The Act would authorize to be located in the Commonwealth and its cities and towns an unlimited number of marijuana retail stores, wholesale growers and manufacturers, to produce and distribute marijuana and marijuana products, including specifically marijuana candy and other edibles and highly potent marijuana concentrates.

Whereas: The states of Colorado and Washington that have been the earliest adopters of commercial marijuana are already experiencing highest-in-the-nation teenage use and a doubling of marijuana impaired driving fatalities.

Whereas: The Act severely limits the right and ability of cities and towns and their elected governments to impose reasonable and meaningful restrictions on the marijuana industry, including impediments to local rules around the number, type and location of marijuana retail stores, growers and manufacturers and on “home grows.”

Whereas: The Act would introduce new and additional drug-based activity into cities and towns at a time when so many residents, families and communities are struggling with the human and social consequences of addiction and the Commonwealth faces an unprecedented opioid crisis.

Whereas: The Act risks creating a new industry that, much like Big Tobacco, subverts public health for private gain, even as so many questions about its consequences remain unanswered and so much information that is available casts grave doubt on its merits and desirability.

Therefore: Be it resolved, that the City Council / Board of Selectman of the City / Town of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ places itself on record as opposing adoption of the initiative petition known as “The Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act” and urges the voters of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to oppose this measure when they cast ballots in the November 2016 statewide election.