From: award1097@gmail.com
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: For the 04-20-2022 review of ethneogens in Missoula
Date: Friday, April 15, 2022 1:42:32 PM

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

My name is Alex Ward, and I am writing this letter to encourage your support for Missoula, Montana to join the fifteen cities across the U.S. who have decriminalized the possession, propagation, and personal use of “entheogens”, which are naturally occurring psychedelic plants and fungi. I stand behind Decriminalize Nature Montana’s belief that human beings have an unalienable natural right to use plants and fungi of their choice. Constituents such as myself would like to see a similar policy in Missoula which would make prosecution for possession of natural plants and fungi the lowest law enforcement priority for the city of Missoula, and city funds would not be used for this purpose.

Mounting clinical research, and thousands of years of traditional use, tells us that entheogenic medicines could be a crucial missing piece in healing epidemic rates of depression, anxiety, PTSD, and addiction, while empowering people to realize greater purpose and connection.

I personally support the decriminalization of entheogens because:

The movement that made most drugs illegal in the first place was in my mind unconstitutional at its core. Many peoples’ pursuit of happiness is made possible through medications that can change a person’s mind and inspire hope that turns into the will to live a better way. In particular, natural remedies have been used for thousands of years and have only been made illegal in certain parts of the world for a relatively short time in the bigger picture. Today, in the global (somewhat new) infrastructure that is changing everything from gas prices to the amount of toiletries on the shelf at the grocery store, we find that there has to be some sort of continuity with respect to illicit drugs. If states are slowly changing their ways, then the nation will follow. The world is next.

Making drugs illegal causes problems such as health, mental health, lost time/money, and people incarcerated for large chunks of time for having barely any of the substance in question. Lives are ruined because of a policy that was never voted on by the people, but the people can change the future and stop the paranoia induced episodes of people doing drugs and

trying to cover it up. Hunching over to hide that pipe will eventually hurt your back. And if an unjust law is no law at all, then drugs will persist as they have for most of recorded history.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexander Thomas Ward