

Casino industry not betting on recreational pot

By Richard N. Velotta, Las Vegas Review-Journal

You won't see the casino industry leading the charge for passage of Question 2, Nevada's recreational marijuana initiative.

Odds are you also won't see resorts sponsoring gatherings involving cannabis use or allowing guests to smoke in their rooms.

That's because the state Gaming Control Board, which regulates the gaming industry in Nevada, has been quite public about its concern that marijuana possession will remain a federal crime even if Question 2 is approved by voters Tuesday. Promoting marijuana use could be perceived as flouting federal statutes.

The potential for federal prosecution helps explain why casino companies and the Nevada Resort Association won't support Question 2 – and why they won't talk about recreational marijuana's potential effects on tourism and conventions.

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