

City of Portland | City Council Kate Snyder, *Mayor*



To: Joint Standing Committee on Taxation
From: Mayor Kate Snyder, City of Portland
Date: 03/09/2023
Re: LD 88

Testimony in Support of An Act to Provide Qualifying Municipalities a Percentage of Adult Use Cannabis Sales and Excise Tax Revenues

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation:

I join you today to testify on behalf of the City of Portland's Legislative/Nominating Committee in support of LD 88, An Act to Provide Qualifying Municipalities a Percentage of Adult Use Cannabis Sales and Excise Tax Revenues.

LD 88 would provide additional revenue to municipalities that are allowing and managing cannabis businesses in their communities. In the "Adult Use Program" 2021 Annual Report provided to the Maine State Legislature, there was \$12,362,620 in excise and sales tax revenue to the State of Maine. This revenue would not have been obtained without the support of municipalities, like the City of Portland, that allow cannabis businesses in their community.

According to the Maine Office of Cannabis Policy, there are currently 203 adult use cannabis retail stores in operation. Thirty (30) of those stores are located in Portland.

Portland is currently struggling to manage numerous challenges, including overwhelming homelessness, staffing shortages and an increased demand for public services and investment in infrastructure. We know many other Maine municipalities are similarly challenged. As cannabis sales and excise tax revenues would not be possible without the local ordinances permitting those retail sales, we urge the Committee to allow those municipalities to benefit from local sales.

Thank you for your consideration.