

Jason Kuvaja
Bridgton
LD 410

Good afternoon Committee members,

My name is Jason Kuvaja of Bridgton, and I am submitting this testimony against LD 410.

Firstly, this punitive and discriminatory bill goes against the spirit of Maine's cannabis laws. Laws that were directly enacted by the will of the people in referendum.

This bill discriminatorily targets the cannabis industry and home grower for subjective "smells" while ignoring countless other Maine industries that routinely produce offensive odors as part of production. Farming, fishing (including lobsters), paper production, various mills and the list goes on. We do not penalize these industries, nor should we cannabis.

Cannabis farming helps save family farms from urban sprawl. Don't penalize and further encumber it. Farming is already hard work.

The smells associated with cannabis are only present during the mid and late flowering, effectively only a month or two. I can assure you from personal experience growing up on a Maine farm, cannabis smells much less, and much less often than traditional animal farming.

I also believe that medicinal cannabis fits well within the recently enacted constitutional amendment declaring that "all individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to grow, raise, harvest, produce and consume the food of their own choosing for their own nourishment, sustenance, bodily health and well-being."

Are we going to fine farmers, fisherman and wharf shop owners? Perhaps an injunction against low tide while were at it? Certainly not as that would be as ridiculous as this proposal.

Finally, this is not an issue for the State, but rather for individual towns and cities planning and code boards.

Thank you for listening to my opinion.

Jason P. Kuvaja, registered Independent voter, Husband, Dad, and Mainer.