

Eben Sumner
West Baldwin
LD 2215

Honorable Chairs and Members of the Committee on the Judiciary,

I am Eben Sumner, a resident of West Baldwin and hold positions as a Board member of the Maine Craft Cannabis Association, the Cannabis Council of Maine, the Seed2Health Learning Health Alliance, and the Biddeford/Saco Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, I am the owner of Casco Bay Hemp, a hemp-based medicine manufacturer and exporter in Biddeford. I offer this testimony regarding LD 2215.

I respectfully urge the committee to vote "Ought Not to Pass" for two specific reasons. Firstly, the current language of the bill jeopardizes the protections established by the original authors of the Medical Program. These protections are crucial for ensuring the safety of medical cultivators and their properties. Caregivers, who are authorized to cultivate in their homes, could face significant risks if their personal information, including the location of their cultivation sites, is made public. Such exposure could make them vulnerable to malicious actors targeting high-value crops. Privacy and confidentiality have long been integral aspects of cannabis legislation, safeguarding citizens year after year.

Secondly, I advocate against passing this bill because the jurisdiction for cannabis legislation matters lies with the Veterans and Legal Affairs committee. This committee boasts members with extensive experience and historical knowledge of cannabis legislation. Currently, they are diligently examining a plethora of cannabis bills this session through a dedicated subcommittee specific to cannabis. Should LD 2215 pass, it would impact the deliberations on numerous bills still under consideration by this committee. Additionally, the subcommittee's assessments have highlighted persistent instances of stigma and prejudice within our state statutes toward cannabis businesses and consumers. In light of these findings, I respectfully suggest that this discussion continue within the appropriate committee.

Respectfully,

Eben Sumner
Board Member
Maine Craft Cannabis Association
Cannabis Council of Maine
Biddeford/Saco Chamber of Commerce
Seed2Health Learning Health Alliance