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Lewiston  
LD 40

Hello Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, & members of the Committee,

My name is Michael Leclair, and I have worked in the cannabis industry as a lead cultivator for many years. I am in full support of LD 40 for the following reasons:

I'm someone who shops with my eyes, so I find it incredibly frustrating that there's a push to mandate opaque packaging for cannabis products. This move feels like a step backward in cannabis policy. These requirements fail to acknowledge the broader trend toward transparent and well-informed cannabis regulations. Opaque packaging makes it difficult for me to visually assess products, hindering my ability to make informed choices and differentiate between products. This approach contradicts the principles of responsible and transparent marketing, which are crucial for building a legitimate and trustworthy cannabis industry. Enforcing opaque packaging at a time when transparency should be a priority seems like a misguided and counterproductive measure, slowing down the industry's progress toward normalization and acceptance.

It's ridiculous that in the cannabis industry, law enforcement can just barge into a business without permission, a warrant, or any valid reason. This kind of overreach not only violates basic rights but also perpetuates the stigma against cannabis users and businesses. It's time to stand up against these unfair practices and demand equal treatment for the cannabis industry. We need to push back against this kind of discrimination and fight for a more just and transparent system.

This situation with the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) is really something else. They're making us jump through hoops just to do simple things like moving furniture or plugging in a new lamp. It's like they're trying to tie our hands behind our backs! This kind of micromanagement is really putting a strain on us in the cannabis industry here in Maine. We need to be able to move fast and make changes to keep up with the market, but with all these rules, it's like trying to run on the ice on Sabattus pond. Don't even get me started on the constant need for notification. It's like they want to know every little thing we're doing. How are we supposed to focus on running our businesses when we're spending all our time filling out forms and getting approvals? It's maddening!

Thankfully, LD 40 is trying to fix this mess. They're looking at a more common-sense approach that'll let us manage our day-to-day without all this unnecessary red tape. Let's hope they can get it sorted out soon so we can get back to doing what we do best: growing medicine for the people of Maine!

Please vote in support of LD 40 so we can finally put these issues to rest!

Thank you,  
Michael LeClair