

Paula Sanborn
Bethel
LD 40

Hello committee members,

My name is Paula Sanborn and I am a General Manager of a small family grocery store. I also grow a couple personal use cannabis plants. I try to stay up to date on new cannabis bills coming through the pipeline and have come across LD 40. After reading the bill over I find that I fully support LD 40. Here is why: The requirement to seek approval from the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) for seemingly routine tasks, such as rearranging furniture or plugging in new electrical devices, imposes an unwarranted burden on the cannabis industry, hindering effective merchandising and adversely affecting business operations. This obligation not only introduces unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles but also signifies a level of micromanagement that may impede the industry's agility and responsiveness. The constant need for notification on such matters appears excessive and can disrupt the natural flow of business operations. By addressing this issue, as proposed in LD 40, the cannabis industry stands to benefit from a more streamlined regulatory approach that allows for efficient and practical day-to-day management, fostering a conducive environment for growth and success. Hitting cannabis businesses with a \$100,000 fine is like pouring salt in the wound. It's an exorbitant amount that puts unnecessary strain on an already budding industry. Small, local players shouldn't bear the brunt of such hefty penalties. When you look at fines in the alcohol business, it's clear the cannabis fines are off the charts. Scaling down the fine structure isn't just fair play; it's about creating a balanced environment where businesses, particularly the smaller ones, can thrive without the constant fear of facing an astronomical fine. Let's bring it down a notch and encourage growth rather than stifling it with punitive measures. Making sure OCP gets the nod from the legislature for all its rulemaking just feels right. It's like having a safety net to make sure nothing too wild slips through. We want these rules to be fair, and having our elected officials give them a thumbs-up ensures that. It's all about keeping things in line and making sure everyone's voice is heard in how things shake out. Let's keep the OCP on a leash, but in a good way – with some legislative checks and balances. Thank you for your time and please vote yes on LD 40.

Sincerely, Paula Sanborn