

**Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,**

**My name is Jan Martin and I am the owner of Highly Cannaco. I am here to testify in opposition to LD40 as it is drafted.**

- **I have operated adult use businesses since the start of the program in 2020. We operate 4 licensed retail stores and a cultivation facility in South Portland, Auburn, Brunswick and Boothbay. This year our Woolwich, Lewiston and Portland stores will also become active. Highly currently has 42 employees and projecting to have over 60 by summer.**
- **We were not consulted nor our trade group CannabisME in the drafting of the Sponsor's Amendment and do not support it as drafted. This bill does NOT have unanimous industry support.**
- **While we do support some changes to the adult use cannabis laws, we cannot support getting rid of meaningful seed to sale tracking, mandatory testing, or enforcement by the regulators, all of which LD 40 would do. These changes will adversely impact our businesses. They will also adversely impact our employees.**
- **The regulated market has helped the adult use industry flourish in Maine. It has also protected us to date from the cartels operating in our unregulated medical program that has had a lot of press recently.**
- **Specifically, it will:**
  - **Financial institutions servicing cannabis clients have already gone on record stating the removal of an accredited seed to sale tracking program would eliminate banking for this industry in Maine.**
    - **Cash only business are dangerous**
    - **Employees would lose access to direct deposit, bill pay, mortgage and auto loans.**
    - **Insurance companies require a regulated market that requires mandatory testing in order to insure businesses and more importantly provide product liability insurance.**
    - **Eliminating track and trace will also open the door for participants to under report revenue. This will certainly cause a budget shortfall of forecasted tax revenue. A fiscal note should be considered.**
    - **The timing of this 66 page bill was designed for there to be no due diligence from Taxation, Appropriations, MMA, DAFS, and industry opposition to name a few, The attempt to push a bill of this size through in two weeks at the end a short session is tactical one and certainly not one inviting wide industry participation.**
    - **Contrary to popular talking points, Metrc is not expensive. My retail stores pay less than \$50 per month for the program.**
    - **We do not support allowing minors to enter the cannabis industry for any reasons including transporting, processing and retailing cannabis.**
    - **I recommend this bill ought not to pass and instead create a working group of adult use industry representatives to work on a comprehensive bill to improve the program. All recognized trade groups should have a seat at the table. This was done and I participated in the 2018 work group that produced very successful results.**

