

March 4, 2024

Maine State Legislature
Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee
State House – Room 437
Augusta, ME 04330

Good Afternoon Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and distinguished members of the joint committee on Veteran and Legal Affairs. My name is Kimber Duncan, I'm a resident of Lisbon Falls and I am the General Manager of a small adult-use cultivator located in South Portland. I'm here before you today to testify in **support of LD 40**.

This bill helps ease administrative burdens that I deal with a lot. I specifically like **B-30, #5**. Rather than fully resubmitting a new application each year, having the option to simply select a button that says, "**no new changes**," would be a smart change to the renewal process. The current license renewal process is tedious and long, so any improvement in efficiency here would be welcome.

We just renewed our cultivation license at the end of the summer. Then during an application update with OCP this Fall, we were thrown for a loop when we were told there was a change to the application process, and they had **replaced the adult use application template** from the three plans - security, operation, and cultivation - to a single facility plan. The "three plan" template was (*and still is*) available for download on OCP's website while the single plan is not available. We were told that to submit our change, we must redo our entire application - which had just been approved 2 months prior - from scratch using this new, single facility plan. This new application process is expected of all adult use cultivators seeking to renew.

Part of this new application requires combining our 3-4 facility maps into one big map with one big key. I don't know how much time the folks at OCP think changes like this take, but it is hours not minutes. And the pressure is high because every single word and item on the application must be precise and perfect because this is the document OCP inspectors use at the time of inspection.

I also experienced lots of **administrative issues** during this process **with OCP**. Notably, their single facility template was not formatted properly. It was sent to me in Word Doc and PDF formats. I abandoned the Word Doc version when I realized none of the check boxes worked. With the PDF, I spent a lot of time reformatting the text boxes so that there would be enough room to fit my text that I had *copied and pasted* from my original application. For many questions, there was not enough room to answer the question completely unless I used a size 6 font, which I used in several areas such as the security and surveillance equipment descriptions.

Between staff labor spent updating maps, filling out forms, reformatting OCP documents, mileage reimbursements, and license fees, the financial impact on our company to redo this application in the new single facility format was **around \$2,000**. This money could have gone to better use as staff bonuses or toward paying our monthly excise taxes. It is obvious there should be a "no new changes" option. This feature saves bandwidth and labor costs for both the licensee and staff at OCP.

Easing pain points like this for adult use cultivators is why **I support LD-40**. Thank you for your time today and I'm happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Kimber Duncan
Gele, LLC
General Manager
South Portland, ME 04016
kimber@gardenofgele.com

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LISBON FALLS
LD 40

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