

Megan Noyes  
Brewer  
LD 40

Originally, I would have loved to give this testimony verbally via zoom; if only us tax payers were allotted the same amount of time as the two gentlemen speaking at the beginning of the meeting and now I must go to work. Here is my written testimony. I am unsure whether I am for or against, as it's never truly clear, but I'm sure with my testimony you will be able to figure out which side I'm on.

My name is Megan Noyes, I am a resident of Brewer, ME. I come to you always as a Patient first. I also own and operate a cannabis business serving the Medical community, and Adult Use in the past. To start off, I would like to highlight some articles published back in December 2020. The first one being from the Portland Press titled "marijuana has grown to become Maine's most valuable crop", the second from WGME titled "marijuana is now a Maine's biggest agricultural commodity", and the third all the way from the Boston Globe titled "marijuana surpasses, potatoes and blueberries as Maine's most valuable crop." After highlighting these articles, I would now like to point out the fact that the only time this state acknowledges this industry as legitimate agricultural businesses, which is what they are, is to tout how much tax revenue we are generating for the state. In practice, we are met with high barriers to entry in this field, outrageous, licensing fees and red tape, and a never ending stigma. We are not treated like workers or consumers of any other agricultural crops; we are treated like criminals. Growers deserve the right to sell, or trade their crops as any other agricultural farmer is able to, and the patient's deserve the right to have accessible medication. This includes deliveries trade shows in private events. If the state will stop treating us workers in this industry, and those consuming this plant like criminals, this could be a much more copacetic relationship.