

Jackson Mcleod
Co-Found of Atlantic Farms

LD 40: Ought to Pass

Honorable Members of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

My name is Jackson Mcleod. I am a resident of Somerville Maine, Co-founder and CEO of Atlantic Farms, and a member of the Maine Craft Cannabis Association. As a business owner deeply invested in the success and integrity of the cannabis industry in Maine, I stand in strong support of LD 40, "An Act To Protect Liberty and Advance Justice in the Implementation Administration and Enforcement of the Cannabis Legalization Act and To Implement Certain Recommendations of the Subcommittee on Non-substantive Changes to the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act."

This critical piece of legislation represents a significant step forward in ensuring that our industry operates in a fair, just, and economically viable manner. By seeking to reduce excessive monetary penalties and clarifying the regulatory framework, LD 40 acknowledges the challenges small businesses face in this sector and offers much-needed relief and clarity. Maine Cannabis is a legitimate industry that needs reform and support to ensure that it maintains viability as the space evolves.

Atlantic Farms operates two vertically integrated business under both the Medical and Recreational laws employing 30 fulltime staff. Over the past five years we have navigated the laws and rules and haven been subject to interpretations of the law that has stunted our business development and challenged our ability to grow a sustainable business that supports many Maine families. These rules have been written by industry outsiders the likes of Freedman & Koski & Others. The amendments proposed are from industry participants who have been operating in this space since its inception. These amendments serve not only to clarify and simply many aspects of the law that would allow small business like ours to prosper but also to advance the broader goals of justice, safety, and accessibility within our community.

Moreover, the commitment to removing the stigma and the presumption of illegal or criminal behavior associated with cannabis establishments is a progressive step that will foster a more supportive relationship between the industry and regulatory bodies, legislators, and the general public.

In conclusion, fostering a supportive regulatory environment is essential to realizing the full potential of Maine Cannabis Industry, now and into the future. LD 40 provides a balanced approach to cannabis regulation, emphasizing both economic viability for businesses and the health and safety of the public. I urge its swift passage, as it will not only support entrepreneurs and small businesses in this growing industry but also ensure that our operations contribute positively to the state's economy and public health objectives.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Jackson Mcleod

Atlantic Farms