

March 4, 2024

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

Good Evening Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and distinguished members of the joint committee on Veteran and Legal Affairs. My name is Susan White, I'm a resident of Cape Elizabeth, a cannabis consumer, and my son owns an adult-use cultivation business in South Portland. I **support LD 40** and would like you to vote Ought to Pass.

I would like to discuss out current Director of Cannabis Policy – John Hudak.

Mr. John Hudak has failed at his job as Director of the Maine Office of Cannabis Policy. He provides no faithful or trustworthy regulations in a multimillion-dollar industry yet has the keys to the kingdom. The Maine cannabis industry has been a godsend to Maine's ruined post-industrial economy, turning vacant and run-down spaces statewide into thriving recreational and medical shops. I am appalled that we elevated this man with such questionable motives to this important role.

He provides regulation that is unpredictable, costly, unprofessional, and in my opinion – absurd. How can we as citizens of Maine, a state that is built of so many small businesses, trust him at this juncture? He is sneaky and corrupt, developing unnecessary and burdensome laws for business owners to trip over.

We need to appoint someone who will advocate for small, local, cannabis businesses. These are the folks who are the heart and heroes of the quality cannabis Maine is known for. Right now, Hudak works against what makes Maine cannabis special.

I stand by the Petition to Fire John Hudak. Enough is enough. This man has to go. We can do better for ourselves and our state. We need a leader who has us in mind, not themselves.

I ask you to remember Maine's motto: **Dirigo – "I lead."** Are we doing well at this right now? Can we be proud? I am not. I look forward to better governance in the future and to someone who will be proud to call our Director of the Office of Cannabis Policy. Right now, we are ashamed and embarrassed.

Thank you,

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