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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Representative Holly Eaton in support of

LD 1314: An Act to Protect Cannabis Industry

Workers' Access to Personal Credit

To the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 1314, An Act to Protect Cannabis Industry Workers' Access to Personal Credit. My name is Representative Holly Eaton, and I proudly represent House District 15, which includes the communities of Deer Isle, Stonington, Brooklin, Tremont, Southwest Harbor, Frenchboro, Swan's Island, Isle au Haut, and Vinalhaven.

Mainers have a long and proud tradition of self-employment and entrepreneurship. That legacy is especially true in rural and coastal parts of our state, where jobs may be seasonal, opportunities are often created through creativity and persistence, and families rely on small businesses to sustain their way of life. Many of these businesses are passed down through generations and form the backbone of our local economies.

Cannabis businesses are now part of that same entrepreneurial landscape. This bill recognizes the reality that many Mainers work in a legal and regulated industry and deserve the same financial opportunities and protections as anyone else. That includes licensed *medical cannabis caregivers*—individuals legally authorized to grow and provide cannabis to patients—as well as retail clerks, trimmers, cultivators, bookkeepers, and many others who make up the workforce.

LD 1314 is a commonsense measure that protects individuals from being unfairly denied access to personal credit solely because of their employment in a cannabis-related business. It doesn't ask for special treatment—just a level playing field.

District 15: Brooklin, Deer Isle, Eagle Island Township, Frenchboro, Southwest Harbor, Stonington, Swan's Island, Tremont, Isle au Haut, Vinalhaven

I see LD 1314 as an extension of the values that define Maine: hard work, fairness, independence, and opportunity. And I believe we have a responsibility to ensure that those working in legal, regulated industries are not penalized by outdated stigma or conflicting federal policies.

I thank Senator Grohoski for bringing this bill forward, and I respectfully urge the committee to vote LD 1314 “Ought to Pass.”