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I believe implementing METRC and testing will greatly hurt the medical program that many, including myself rely on for quality, cost effective medicine. All METRC does is create unnecessary steps leading to lost revenues, lost product and confusion. I worked in the Inventory Department and as a sales associate for Berkshire Roots in Pittsfield, MA and can verify with first hand experience that METRC only makes things worse for the customer, the medical patients, the sales associates and anyone involved in the handling of the plants from cultivation and production to edibles, manufacturing and sales. Testing sounds good in theory, but in reality is completely unreliable and ends up leading to businesses shopping for whichever testing company delivers the best results. Not the most precise results, but the results with the highest numbers. Testing a small percentage of plant material and applying those numbers across the board is a false narrative as no two plants or flowers will be identical due to numerous variables while growing and curing, not to mention that they will continue to cure after being harvested and trimmed. Another way testing is unreliable is that companies have found ways to pump up their results by dusting their test flower with extra trichomes collected during the process to help inflate their THCa numbers leading consumers to believe they're purchasing "stronger" flower. As a former budtender/sales associate I can confirm that lower testing flower doesn't sell as fast and doesn't garner as much consumer interest simply because of the false notion that it's weaker or not as good. This leads to companies wanting all of their products to test as high as they possibly can at all times and communicating that to the testing labs that only stay in business if they keep gaining more clients and keep giving satisfactory results. When I first started working in the industry we had flower with cannabinoid content and terpenes results all over the place which is expected. By the time I left everything was testing over 30% THCa which is very rare and not something achievable with every single testing plant in your grow room. Many of the methods that companies use to pass testing is also unsafe and many times, makes the product more unhealthy then it was when untested. Testing and tracking will only lead to higher costs for everyone associated with cannabis in Maine with the possible complete collapse of the medical program like California is currently experiencing. It will also lead to a loss in tourism revenue as many medical patients, myself included, vacation in Maine due to its reciprocal program and quality of cannabis. You get to speak with the actual growers and get a glimpse into the passion they put into their plants, the growing methods they use and the techniques to keep their cannabis clean and up their own high standards which are higher then most companies that use testing and tracking and are more well known or multi state operators. As someone who has traveled all over the country for cannabis tourism, Maine is the best in the nation and will only stay that way in its current form- without forced tracking and testing.