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#### Public Comment on Proposed Cannabis Regulations

My name is John Arnold, and I'm submitting this comment as both a medical cannabis patient and customer relations for a community-based cannabis company. I strongly oppose the proposed regulations that would impose excessive testing, unnecessary track-and-trace requirements, and arbitrary potency limits.

These changes do not enhance safety—they enable consolidation. They are a clear example of regulatory capture. The appointment of a director to the Office of Cannabis Policy who is a majority owner of a company that stands to profit from mandated track-and-trace software is a blatant conflict of interest. That company has helped write laws in multiple states requiring their system—using public policy as a tool for private gain.

Let's be honest: these proposals are not about protecting patients. They're about protecting corporate profits and giving multi-state operators a competitive advantage. Small producers like the farm I work on already follow strict standards for cleanliness, documentation, and quality. Every added layer of compliance—more fees, more software, more paperwork—drives up our costs and makes it harder to survive.

The result? Patients pay more. Access drops. Local jobs vanish. Communities lose trusted, familiar producers, and are left with monopolized options dictated by out-of-state interests.

The current system works. It gives patients affordable, effective medicine made by people they know and trust. These proposed regulations would dismantle that, replacing community-based care with corporate control.

And let me be crystal clear: each one of these testimonies you hear today likely represents at least 100 constituents in your districts—patients, caregivers, workers, farmers, and small business owners. Are you listening to the people who elected you, or are you legislating for the benefit of private corporations?

We need leadership that protects access, equity, and economic sustainability, not one that rubber-stamps backdoor deals and industry takeovers. Reject these proposals, stop the monopolization of Maine's cannabis program, and defend the people who built it from the ground up.