

Steven Robinson
Albion
LD 1847

My name is Steve Robinson. I operate a small caregiver business cultivating cannabis under the sun on our family farm on the shores of Lovejoy Pond in Albion. We serve mostly low and middle income rural patients who like that our flower is grown naturally, with robust terpenes and no nasty chemical fertilizers or pesticides. We use only organic nutrients and do not use harmful pesticides.

I strongly oppose the proposed legislation because if it is adopted, I will cease to do business. With the price pressure resulting from the flooding the market with low-quality suspiciously grown flower, our business is financially challenged as it is. The testing that would be required of us would make it impossible to provide patients with quality product at affordable prices.

We grow 23 strains among our 30 plants that we grow each year. If we were to follow the proposed testing regime, the testing costs would be about 30% of our entire revenue. The additional record-keeping requirements for the inventory control system would require us to hire someone to do a non-revenue producing activity and hence eat further into our revenue.

We do potency testing on harvested plants and on batches of concentrates so that we can understand how effective our cultivation has been, what the terpene profile of a particular strain is and how the extraction process has been completed, etc. That is information that we use to advise patients and is worth the expense, albeit high, that we have to incur for this testing. We only provide potency information on labelling in conformance with regulatory labeling requirements, but in most cases, do not use the potency information on labeling.

Neither the proposed testing nor the inventory control system under this proposed statute are of any benefit to our patients. Our patients know how we grow, they have seen our flower is clean and healthy and our name is on the jar and they know where we live. If this bill is adopted, you will force many craft growers like us out of business, leaving the market to depend on mega-grows with questionably better quality.

The only merit to the bill is the proposal to study whether there are harmful effects. If there is a properly focused study that provides useful information about the actual risks that are trying to be addressed, the legislature would be in a better position to make informed rules in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sent from my iPhone