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Albion  
LD 1847

I am writing in strong opposition to Maine Bill LD 1847. This legislation, if passed, will have devastating consequences for small businesses, employees, patients, farmers, and entire communities across our state. As someone who has witnessed firsthand how the medical cannabis program supports livelihoods and provides vital medicine, I am deeply concerned about the ripple effects this bill will create.

LD 1847 threatens to impose new, costly regulatory burdens and restrictions that many small businesses simply cannot absorb. These businesses—many of them family-run—already operate on tight margins and are struggling to survive in a volatile market. Forcing additional compliance costs will lead to layoffs, closures, and the collapse of an industry that supports thousands of Mainers, both directly and indirectly.

For employees, this means lost jobs and economic insecurity. For farmers, particularly those in rural areas, it could mean losing their only viable cash crop. And for patients—some of the most vulnerable people in our communities—this bill could sharply increase the cost of their medicine, making it inaccessible for those who rely on it daily for chronic pain, PTSD, cancer, and other conditions.

We cannot afford to create more barriers for patients who are already struggling to afford basic healthcare. Medical cannabis is a lifeline, not a luxury, and increasing its cost or limiting access through overregulation will push people toward more dangerous or less effective alternatives.

Maine's medical cannabis program has been a model of community-driven success, supporting wellness, economic growth, and responsible cultivation. LD 104 risks unraveling that progress. I urge lawmakers to listen to the voices of patients, caregivers, small business owners, and rural communities. Please reject this harmful bill before it does irreversible damage.