

Goodmorning Everyone,

My name is Elise Spaulding and I am here to represent our small family farm in Scarborough, Maine and I am writing to you along with many of my colleagues to oppose LD104 and LD1847.

I think that most everyone in the industry understands the outcome if these two bills pass because we've seen it in adult use. Small businesses and family owned operations have been going under at rapid rates because they can't afford the financial burden the state has put on them with fees, over regulations and mandatory tracking and testing. Customers left to only buy from the large corporations with unethical approaches.

Maine is a state of small farms and cannabis is no exception. We have watched you destroy the adult use market with Metrc and crumble the recreational cannabis industry in front of our very eyes.

If the testing we rely on to protect the health of medical patients cannot differentiate between pathogenic vs beneficial or benign yeasts and molds then the question I propose back to you is how is mandatory testing keeping our medical patients safe?

As a registered nurse I believe that implementing mandatory testing poses way more of a public health risk. We are giving patients false security that their meds are safe with inaccurate testing, all while burdening small businesses with costly mandatory fees that are unnecessary and will put them out of business. Our patients trust their farmers who have been growing their medicine for decades. Here in Maine we shake our farmers hand and we have probably met their family.

So if this doesn't accomplish our overall end goal of protecting the health of medical cannabis patients, then why are we proposing it? Because if it isn't an attempt to over regulate and financially drain small family farms and mom and pop shops, what is it?

It kind of seems like to me, in turn, it would raise the cost for both patients and caregivers without increasing public safety. It would be obvious from the outside looking in that raising prices for patients with medical needs is not the answer.

We all know how this goes, because we saw it in adult use. LD104 and LD1847 would do nothing but put small businesses under while the large corporations survive and that's not what our state stands for. Mandatory testing and state mandatory tracking would be the death of all of our small family farms and the medical program that serves our community.

These two bills would put our small Veteran owned & operated farm out of business. We would respectfully ask that these bills are not passed.

Thank you.