

Testimony Opposing LD 1567 (H.P. 1025)

By Jacob Racioppi

Chairpersons and members of the committee,

I submit this testimony in strong opposition to LD 1567 (H.P. 1025), a bill that should concern anyone who wishes to participate in the future of the cannabis industry in Maine.

This bill proposes the implementation of additional labeling requirements and regulatory restrictions related to the use of radiation and ozone treatment methods in the adult-use cannabis program. These requirements not only exceed the regulatory norms currently upheld across the cannabis industry in the United States, but they also diverge from practices widely accepted in global markets. As someone directly engaged in Maine's cannabis economy, I fear this bill would significantly disadvantage our businesses—both recreational and medical—by erecting regulatory barriers that do not exist in competing states.

Radiation and ozone treatment methods are well-established, scientifically validated technologies commonly used in industries far beyond cannabis. These treatments help ensure the microbial safety of products without compromising quality or consumer safety. In fact, they are standard in the food industry—an industry that does not require specific consumer-facing labeling for such treatments, precisely because their safety is so well-established.

Requiring cannabis businesses to label products as treated with radiation or ozone, despite these being safe and essential tools for compliance and cleanliness, will foster unnecessary stigma. These labels will not serve to educate the consumer but to alarm them, creating a false impression that these products are somehow unsafe or tainted. This is both misleading and harmful.

No other state with a legal cannabis program has enacted a labeling requirement of this kind. That should tell us something. These states, many of which are leaders in regulatory development and product safety, have deliberately chosen not to adopt such policies. Maine should not isolate itself with regulations that discourage innovation and growth in an industry that already faces immense challenges.

Let us be clear: the intent behind this bill may be rooted in consumer transparency, but the effect will be to misinform and damage public perception. In doing so, it will harm small businesses, reduce consumer trust, and diminish Maine's competitiveness in a rapidly evolving national market.

I respectfully urge you to vote against LD 1567. Let's support a regulatory environment that is based on science, consistency, and fairness—not fear or misinformation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jacob Racioppi
Owner, Goose River Cannabis Company
Unity, Maine