

Michille, Manager for an Adult Use Cannabis Company in Maine

LD1567 - opposition testimony

My name is Michille. I am employed by a licensed adult-use cannabis company in Maine. I'm submitting testimony in firm opposition to LD 1567.

This bill singles out responsible businesses in the adult-use market—businesses like mine that are held to the highest safety and compliance standards in the cannabis industry. We are already meeting rigorous state requirements for testing, labeling, and product handling.

To meet Maine's extremely strict microbial standards, cannabis producers have been using this technology to make their products safe and able to pass an audit test by our regulator. These technologies help ensure that our customers receive clean, shelf-stable products. Adding a label warning would send the wrong message and create unnecessary fear or confusion among consumers.

There has been no data shared that demonstrates a health risk from these remediation techniques. If anything, the greater risk lies in products from the illicit and hemp-derived markets, which face no testing requirements or labeling rules.

Legal operators are already doing more with less while trying to keep pace with unregulated competitors. Adding new labeling requirements now would only make it harder to maintain consumer trust in Maine's regulated cannabis system.

This labeling requirement would cost the State of Maine significant money, requiring OCP to hire new physicists and resulting in a decrease in sales tax and excise tax revenue.

Supporters say this is about transparency. But real transparency would be voluntary labeling for any product that wants to advertise "non-remediated" status. This bill just creates stigma and confusion around safe, regulated practices.

The reality is, no indoor cultivation facility in Maine is passing 100% of their microbial tests. This equipment is an insurance policy for the small businesses of Maine. It's not a way to cut corners. These tools exist to help operators meet our state's strict standards—and they work.

Most supporters of this bill consist of medical operators who do not participate in the AU program. These proponents, including the bill sponsor, typically stand for deregulation of cannabis rules for both AU and medical cannabis programs - except on this particular issue. Their support of this labeling requirement, by extension, is support for mandatory testing. Something they are adamantly opposed to.

Additional regulations on the most regulated cannabis program in Maine are not fair.

This bill doesn't protect consumers—it misinforms them. No other state in the US has a labeling requirement proposed in this bill.

I respectfully ask the committee to vote no on LD 1567.

Thank you.