

Nate Burdick
Porter
LD 1897

I am a caregiver in Porter ME and own and operate Upward Organics. We are 100% sun grown and solar powered.

We have spent the last 7 years building this company with myself and 1 other caregiver and we are able to do very well within the current rules. I love Geoff and Lizzy so much. What they do for this community cannot be quantified! I would love to have the ability to work collectively and remove some of the redundant administrative hoops and have my partner under my 1 LLC. Please approve the collectives aspect of this bill it is definitely common sense.

However, I do not think 150 plants is a good idea at all. Would I benefit? Yes, but only in the short term. I believe this would create a very precarious situation that is ripe for exploitation. I can see a large company mowing down several acres and having multiple caregivers grow 150 plants each (which outside can yield up to 4+ pounds). I strongly believe this would inadvertently destroy small businesses and even the sun grown brand. Sun grown as it is today takes a tremendous amount of skill and character to do the job well. Large companies with multiple caregivers growing 600 plants would not do it with the same craft in mind and would have a market shifting effect.

As you consider this bill, I strongly believe that there are amazing aspects of it worth looking at, but the plant count aspect needs to be very carefully scrutinized and safeguards put in place to protect the craft growers that have built the reputation of Maines medical program.

Thank you for all that you do.
Nate Burdick