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LD 1847

I strongly oppose LD 1847 because the testing system is flawed. There is already a tracking system and I submit to audits every year with monthly financial uploads of accounting statements to report with monthly sales tax being paid to the State. If there is a system that the State would like to propose which is free of use that would be great. If the State wants more info on tracking, that's cool, but it shouldn't be a financial burden on the establishment if there is only going to be one company awarded the contract. That is just a monopoly given business, I wish I had that luxury to have a non-compete for any industry but it never drives the cost down, or improves overall quality of a program.

The State could just ask us to upload quarterly statements that coincide with retail sales and wholesale sales with all caregiver info and patient ids. But unless there is more of an open market I do not believe giving one company full reign is fair, you need to find a more fair way to track and trace. This does not hurt the black market, it only helps it, and it hurts the people of your State who actually pay income taxes and generate real sales tax revenue, who also risk losing their license if they make illegal sales, which would jeopardize everything they have invested into.

There are lots of other more important problems, like the drop in market value of overall cannabis due to OCP not having any jurisdiction over illegal grows. A field investigator tells me that they can only supply the info to the police and if the Police do not want to investigate then it goes away. OCP has no action of recourse if these grows are not set up legally. There is no license to take away or anyone to fine. If we could engage OCP to work with energy suppliers to cut off power to proven illegal grows that would be amazing.

The people who come to testify and oppose LD1847 are not the criminals, we are the taxpayers who are working very hard to keep sales coming into this state. We are fighting against more surrounding states that are creating cannabis programs and thus making it harder to attract out of state patients that used to visit and make a vacation out of coming to Maine for cannabis products that they can now easily get in their home states. If we stay proud of the medical program Maine has created we will keep our competitive advantage on surrounding states and help keep small businesses alive.