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LD 1672

Greetings esteemed VLA committee, I am writing in support of LD 1672.

With METRC embroiled in controversy and the other two third party options likely to follow suit I strongly support this bill allowing operators in AU to chose their own track and trace software.

As you have all heard many times: None of these stop diversion or inversion, they just create an illusion of compliance when they are used to divert what is likely millions of pounds of product every year throughout the world. We are learning that the very tools we were told would stop diversion are the ones being used to legitimize it and to write off "spoiled" product that is sold on the illicit market.

The only thing that stops diversion is honesty, we must foster that through positive relationships with our regulators and lower regulatory costs. The reason illicit products can compete is that they are not subject to all of these crazy expenses. I can tell

You the state makes more \$ per lb. than most operators. Perhaps some thanks is due, or at

least make it so there is something left over for continued operation. Many never make a dime in AU, dropping out before even making their first sale. Or sticking it out for years, losing money the whole time. Some like us saw our peers lose everything trying to enter that space.

This is a chance to make right some of many wrongs in the AU program. Thank you so much for your time.