

Jimal Nubani
South Portland
LD 1942

Testimony of Jimal Nubani
Head of Cultivation, Dreamscape Farms SP, LLC
To the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation
Re: Reforming the Cannabis Excise Tax (LD 1942)

Dear Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and Members of the Committee,
My name is Jimal Nubani, and I serve as the Head of Cultivation at Dreamscape Farms SP, LLC, a licensed adult-use cannabis cultivation facility in Maine. I appreciate the chance to speak with you today in support of LD 1942 and to share how the current excise tax structure is impacting not just our business, but the lives and wellbeing of the people behind it.

At \$335 per pound, the cannabis excise tax consumes a massive share of our revenue. That cost doesn't just show up on a spreadsheet—it reverberates through every part of our operation. Our entire team feels it. There's a constant sense of uncertainty: Will there be enough capital to keep the business going next month? Will we have to cut back even further?

It's a heavy emotional burden. We operate like a family here, and every team member knows what's going on. We're all pulling in the same direction, working hard every day to build something lasting—but the tax structure makes it feel like we're running uphill with a weight strapped to our backs. It's exhausting, and it's taking a toll on our mental health.

From an operational standpoint, we're in desperate need of upgrades and optimization—things like better lighting systems, improved environmental controls, and more efficient equipment that would make the business stronger and more sustainable in the long term. But we simply can't reinvest in the facility. The excise tax wipes out the capital we'd need to do that. And we're not even talking about profits here—we're talking about survival.

The only real option left has been to take on debt. But in the cannabis industry, borrowing comes at a steep cost. Interest rates are astronomical, and access to financing is extremely limited. That puts us in a vicious cycle: we take on debt to stay afloat, which raises our monthly costs, which makes it even harder to keep up. It's a death spiral.

We aren't asking for special treatment. We're asking for a fair chance to succeed in the legal market we were invited into. Right now, the numbers just don't work. And unless this tax is reformed, many businesses—especially small ones like ours—won't be around much longer.

We're all hoping this session brings relief. Everyone at Dreamscape is holding onto that hope, because we believe in what we're doing and we believe in this industry. But if something doesn't change, belief won't be enough.

Thank you for taking the time to listen and for considering the human cost of this policy.

Sincerely,
Jimal Nubani
Head of Cultivation
Dreamscape Farms SP, LLC