

jason kuvaja
bridgton
LD 1847

Members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee,

My name is Jason Kuvaja, and I am a T1 (6 plant max) registered medical cannabis caregiver in Maine. Like many small caregivers, I also am a patient. I am writing in strong opposition to LD 1847 and urge an Ought Not to Pass

I come from a generational Maine small farming family. My paternal ancestry came from Finland (where he was also a farmer) and began a family dairy farm in Greenwood around the turn of the century. After 110 years of operation my cousins had to sell the dairy and shut down due to counting cost and regulations.

I also grew up farming in Bridgton at my maternal family farm. We had a family farm specializing in wool sheep, but again, the economic pressure on small family farms caused my parents to sell off our livestock.

Now as I try to restart farming on what's left of a family farm in the cannabis industry, I find my family facing the same existential economics and regulatory pressures that have crushed so many other small Maine farms.

What's worse, is the proposed legislation does not even fix any of the concerns it is targeting. Metrc, a monopoly, has not stopped the massive amounts of illegal cannabis from other states. In 2025, California alone authorities seized and destroyed over \$609 million worth of illegal cannabis products. This record enforcement, led by the Unified Cannabis Enforcement Task Force (UCETF), represents an 18-fold increase in seized value compared to 2022. Metrc doesn't work.

Medical cannabis has been very safe in Maine, and nearly all recalls have been of previously tested and passed recreational products. Recent news of a pesticide recall in medical cannabis has not implicated any Maine grower, and may well have been diverted products from other states. It would be unfair to attack medical cannabis without all the information. Furthermore, the testing standards are not in line with other similar farmed goods, and are in desperate need of a rework of the matrix and limits. I say that as a consumer and producer who is an organics/regenerative hippy-dippy kinda guy. I grow clean cannabis, because that's what I want to consume and share with those I care about.

Small farms and patients can't compete with the funding and tactics from away, but we do vote and inform our friends, family and community. Please vote out not to pass. This bill may mean well, but will do real harm to small farms with razor thin margins already, while not solving any concerns of the committee. It will also hurt local family farms in favor of big well funded operators from other states

Sincerely,
Jason Kuvaja
Bridgton Maine