

April 5, 2023

OPPOSED LD410

Meehan, Susan 207-861-1945

Senator Craig Hickman, Representative Supica, and honorable members of the VLA Committee. My name is Susan Meehan, and I live in Sweden, Maine. I am a board member of the Maine Cannabis Coalition and a founding member of the Cannabis Council of Maine. I testify strongly opposed to this bill LD 410 today.

This bill has the potential to destroy an industry based upon a "neighborly" complaint within 100 yards – that is about 300 feet. There are many properties in Maine that do not even have 300 feet of frontage or a 300 foot border. How shall people stay 100 yards from other people in Portland Maine for example? We heard a bill last week whose sponsor I believe has honest and good intentions to prevent young adults from the horrors of addiction. I am struggling to understand the good intentions with the presented language. This bill stinks.

One day, heading to Cyndimae's Boston-located neurologist one day, in bumper to bumper traffic on a Massachusetts highway, Cyndimae started a seizure that required administration of her cannabis rescue formulation. As my driver pulled over, so I could safely administer her rescue formulation, a Massachusetts State Police officer pulled in behind us. He came to the vehicle window and clearly smelled cannabis. He asked if we needed emergency services as the seizure was resolving. He was pretty stunned how fast her seizure resolved, and even though he smelled cannabis, and he probably knew that Massachusetts was not a reciprocal state, he helped us get our vehicle back into traffic to continue to Cyndimae's doctor. This bill even targets patient oral consumption. To this day, my nieces and nephews will smell cannabis and with happy memories for the life this plant gave her, they exclaim, "I smell Cyndimae's medicine!"

What other stinky companies shall we regulate out of business today?

Paper mills, pig farms, cow/dairy farms, farms in general, tobacco smoke, deodorant, liquor/alcohol, gas stations – gasoline stinks!! The Old Port in Portland smells like a swampy ocean. Can we please do something about this? Wearing perfume and cologne in public spaces. We can ask, but we (currently) do not legislate this matter. Passing gas in public – we need a law to prevent this as well please. I think England such a law existed in renaissance England. Skunks – shall we hunt skunks to extinction? Stink bugs – well, I too wish that they had not been imported from Asia, but how do we eliminate them without eliminating our beneficial insects like honey bees? When people cook fish in my friend's apartment buildings, it stinks. Shall we legislate cooking fish, and where that should be legal? Sometimes we just have to take the perceived negative with the bonafide good, and let the honey bees live and let nature's olfactory adjustment remedy this.

This program assists about 10% of the voting population of Maine coming in at 106,000 patients strong. Stop harassing our patients. This bill demonstrates why It is long overdue time that we establish boundaries that provide for consumption in social clubs, or in outside bounded areas much like we establish tobacco consumption areas. Perhaps a smoking area should be a smoking area. Maine currently sells and taxes product to our many tourists providing no legal location where they can consume said product. Enforcement of this stench would be impossible. Please kill this waste-of-time-and-money bill deeming it ought not to pass. Thank you.