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*Representative Laura Supica introducing*  
**LD 1529, An Act to Reform the State's Adult Use Cannabis Seed-to-sale Tracking System  
to Allow for Canopy Tagging**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs*

Senator Hickman and fellow members of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, I am Representative Laura Supica and I am honored to represent part of Bangor here in the Maine Legislature. Thank you for the opportunity to present **LD 1529, An Act to Reform the State's Adult Use Cannabis Seed-to-sale Tracking System to Allow for Canopy Tagging** for your consideration.

This bill builds on legislation I sponsored, and which we passed last session, to expand batch tagging from plant canopy to include products. LD 1529 would establish a deadline for our track and trace vendor, Metrc, to comply with Maine law while also providing additional clarity around.

The most important change is in Sec. 1, subsection 105 simply changing the word “may” to “shall”. In effect this requires the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) to expand batch tagging to include the transfer of products.

Last session, we included permissive language allowing the authority to begin batch tagging products. OCP had to renegotiate Maine’s contract with the company Metrc, so we are proposing this change which will provide greater clarity on the policy and establish a deadline by which it must be complete.

As you know, the stated purpose of Maine’s track and trace system is to prevent the inversion and diversion of cannabis products. If it is grown and manufactured in Maine, we want it to be sold in Maine. We also don’t want Maine’s market flooded with product produced outside the state. It is also important to make sure that a product which is deemed unsafe will be easily identifiable so it can be pulled from shelves. The adult use industry supports track and trace, but reasonably enough, wants that process to be as simple as possible.

At its core, cannabis is an agricultural product. We should regulate it like an agricultural product. When a pallet of lettuce is delivered to the grocery store, not every box of greens has a uniquely identified tag. Instead, it comes with a manifest. Every box of lettuce is part of a batch. If there is E.coli contamination, the entire batch can be identified and pulled from the shelf. Production

of cannabis and cannabis products is nearly equivalent. If a batch has contamination, the entire batch needs to be pulled, whether it is flower or a gummy.

Instead of painstakingly tagging individual products, a pallet of products can simply have its manifest appended to the single tag and uploaded into Metrc. Tagging individual products is extraordinarily time consuming and provides no additional safety for consumers. Nor does individual tagging better protect against diversion. Application programming interface systems already help cultivators and manufacturers build a manifest of the products being delivered to a retail shop. Using that manifest to track a product is more efficient and provides equivalent information to OCP.

Tracking and tracing products is important. Flexibility and reasonableness is also important. Finding the least burdensome way to provide accurate information to OCP is the goal of this legislation. I hope you will join me in supporting this small change in Maine law which will have a big impact on Maine's adult use cannabis entrepreneurs.