



Maine Cannabis Union Association

698 Lisbon St, Lisbon Falls, ME 04252

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Honorable members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee.

The Maine Cannabis Union is very much in favor of LD 2147. This bill as you have heard simply removes the symbol from individual servings. All those that have gone before me are subject matter experts and I suggest you rely on them for information. I would like to use my 3 minutes to express the underlying problem with most of the bills submitted on cannabis.

1. The MCUA is bringing Medical and Adult Use participants together to help fight for just and reasonable rules and regulations. Together, we will protect this industry from over-regulation and misguided regulation.
2. The Office of Cannabis Policy, the legislature, and the industry must work together. I see a huge underlying problem when OCP regulates based on their interpretation of statutes which they call guidance. We need clarity and common sense in this industry immediately. When a product is approved, and then asked to be pulled from the shelves, it does not foster a working relationship. This program has no accountability. For instance, I deal with shellfish which have a food label or tag on each container. Some people are very allergic to shellfish, and it can only be harvested in open area waters because of toxins and E. coli. Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning or red tide can kill you. However, when we have any changes to the printed labels or tags our industry must use by statute, we are given time to submit our new label or tag for approval and allowed by POLICY to use what we have already printed. It prevents an additional financial burden.
3. Communication with OCP is extremely difficult. You cannot get anyone to answer questions or even get the Director to return a phone call. This is a problem. I personally have had retaliatory inspections, good inspectors, and bad inspectors. This industry is important to the State of Maine's economy and the residents that live here. If you cannot speak openly to OCP or the inspectors out of fear- you will never improve the program and this oil and water situation will continue. The OCP repeatedly says if you don't like it, consult with a lawyer or your representative. Think of the time it would save if we were able to work with OCP.
4. Enforcement issues. The inspections should be standardized. I will say it again, if you do not have any consistency or fair inspections across the board we will continue to be in front of this committee, it is the only option for change. Perhaps this body could provide OCP with guidance? Then the interpretation of the statute would be clear and avoid inconsistency in this program. To avoid any appearance of impropriety or subjective standards, the inspections need to be standardized and fairly applied.

Please deem LD 2147 OUGHT TO PASS. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Virginia Olsen, District 4 IAMAW