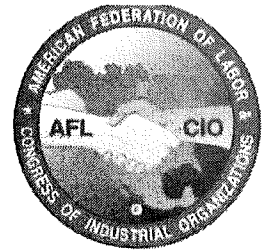




MAINE AFL-CIO

A Union of Unions Standing for Maine Workers
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Testimony of Maine AFL-CIO Legislative & Political Director, Adam Goode, in Support of LD 2147, "An Act to Remove the Requirement for Edible Cannabis Products to Be Stamped or Embossed on Each Serving with a Universal Symbol"

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veterans & Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Adam Goode. I'm the Legislative and Political Director of the Maine AFL-CIO. We represent 40,000 working people in the state of Maine. We work to improve the lives and working conditions of our members and all working people. We testify in support of LD 2147.

The popularity of joining together in a union in order to win improvements for workers on the job is at record levels. Across the country and here in Maine we have seen workers at the Bangor Daily News, Coffee By Design, Maine Medical Center, Northern Maine Medical Center, Sexual Assault Support Agencies, Starbucks Coffee and in many other workplaces win union recognition. One of the most recent groups that we have welcomed to the labor movement in Maine is the Maine Cannabis Union.

The Maine Cannabis Union is a non-profit organization that uses advocacy, electoral, communications, education and engagement programs to achieve its purpose of growing the Maine Cannabis Industry together. The organization's mission is to build unity across both the Medical Use Cannabis and Maine Adult Use Cannabis Programs, Storeowners, Growers, Extractors, Wholesalers, Caregivers, Patients, Patrons, Activists and Supporters, as well as the workers in the industry through an affiliation with the International Association of Machinists.

We are providing support for this bill as it addresses inconsistent application of compliance standards in the Maine Adult Use of Cannabis Program. While we are far from experts in the policies regarding the labeling of gummies, it is our understanding that members of the Maine Cannabis Union struggle with the Office of Cannabis Policy approach that grants to the inspector discretion of the application of the rule regarding embossing labels for gummies from Maine cannabis manufacturers.

We support the testimony you will receive from Maine Cannabis Union members that recommends that these products come in resealable child-resistant packaging that is marked with a symbol. Requirements for a "universal symbol" that each item in the package have a symbol of it's own is redundant, ineffective and unnecessary.

We join with the Maine Cannabis Union to contest the current approach, especially the demonstrated, inconsistent application of the requirement for a symbol. We believe they should have fair and consistent application of our laws and rule and see LD 2147 as the approach to address the issue at hand.

For these reasons we support LD 2147.