

Dear Members of the VLA Committee

I am writing this testimony in favor of removing the Universal Cannabis Symbol from each individual piece of edible. What does this symbol actually do? It actually restricts any more products on the market. The stamp required on each individual piece is asinine. All this does is restrict what can be on the market. If this stamp was to be removed it would broaden the market. All this symbol is doing is restricting tax money. The consumers are tired of the same products on the market, either Gummies or Chocolate bars. So what this policy is doing is forcing the consumers to either the Medical market or the Black Market to get some of the savory treats that they want. Which in return is hurting the adult use edible companies because it restricts what they can put on the market .

Now I am hearing that this symbol is something about public safety. How is this symbol of public safety? I mean these edibles are put into child proof containers and sold to adults over the age of 21. I dont think a two year old or a dog will identify what a THC symbol looks like on a gummy or a piece of chocolate. If a child or an animal gets a hold of any of these products I call that irresponsible adulting !!! The symbol does absolutely nothing. All it is doing is causing a divide between some companies and OCP because OCP is picking winners and losers in the Adult market.

I am the Manager at Gold Road Extracts / Upta Camp Edible Company and we carry a MSO Brand, Smokies Fruit Chews we have been on the market in Maine for over four years and we have never had any inspection issues until lately. We were denied to put our Fruit Chews on the market due to the symbol on the fruit chews not being up to OCP standards after we were told that they would be good to go during a previous courtesy inspection.

But what really upsets me is how OCP will not enforce this on any of the products on the market. I have personally ghost shopped at Adult Use stores for gummies and nobody is following this OCP policy especially the Corporate Cannabis Companies. I believe you have seen or will see the picture that was taken. We all know these Cannabis Corporations have a hand in the pockets or have some type of major influence at OCP. Why isn't OCP going after the likes of Wellness Company. Oh I know why because Wellness will fight them in court and drain OCP of all their money. So they decide to flex their Ex-Police Officer muscle and harass the little guys while leaving the big guys alone.

The Ex-police officer thing is also something that needs to be addressed. Ever since Erik Gundersen was either forced out or left on his own good will I feel the program has become more of a police state. We don't need more Law Enforcement, we need people who will pick up the phone and offer guidance and not ones that will high five each other because they are forcing tons of caregiver shops and manufacturers to resticker packaging because of a leaf being not the right size.

What we need is an OCP that will offer guidance and assistance not one that is harassing everyday people trying to make a living. We need people who are willing to help other people. We are not getting this right now and its an embarrassment to a program that was once considered the best in the nation. I hope you take my testimony into consideration and thank you have a great day.

Very Respectfully,

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