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Written Testimony of Bradley Feuer, CEO of Healer, Inc. in Opposition to L.D. 1996,
An Act to Regulate Synthetic Hemp-derived Cannabinoids

January 29, 2024

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker, and distinguished members of the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee:

My name is Bradley Feuer and I live in Falmouth Maine. I am the CEO of Healer, Inc. a Maine based company that produces Hemp Products organically grown in Maine on Sheepscott Farm and manufactured in our Brunswick, ME facility. We currently employ 8 full time Maine residents with plans to hire additional employees in 2024 as we continue to grow to meet demand.

Healer produces full spectrum, non-intoxicating hemp products that are both state and federally compliant with less than 0.3% THC. Our products are third-party lab tested by an ISO-accredited Maine laboratory for cannabinoids, terpenes, and to be free of all contaminants such as pesticides, heavy metals, toxins, and more. Our products are sold nationwide and internationally, online, in retail medical and adult use dispensaries, as well as healthcare provider offices and pharmacies.

A very large part of the hemp market is searching for plant based, natural solutions for various health concerns that do not have intoxicating side effects. All of our products have less than 0.3% THC and are non-intoxicating and non-habit forming.

I oppose L.D. 1996 because the proposed bill will end Maine's Hemp Industry, forcing numerous companies like ours, which employ Maine workers, to shut down operations or move out of state. The economic impact of this bill would be severe by not allowing Maine businesses to participate and compete in the national and international multi-billion dollar hemp markets. Out of state companies will continue to sell these proposed banned products to Maine residents through online and retail sales, unless the state plans to enforce this bill statewide by removing the products from shelves and preventing online purchases, which the bill does not address.

LD 1996 would create a "Moratorium on the sale of certain food containing THC determined to be intoxicating". And states "a person may not sell...food containing a hemp-derived ingredient

that contains 0.3% or more delta-9 THC... For purposes of this section, "hemp-derived ingredient" includes but is not limited to extracts, cannabinoids..."

This language will do the most damage to Maine's Hemp Industry and will ban all full spectrum hemp products in Maine. These products are readily available nationwide and are federally compliant with less than 0.3% THC, including Healer's non-intoxicating tinctures, edibles and capsules.

The production process of full spectrum hemp products requires the extraction of the cannabinoids from compliant hemp that concentrates all the naturally occurring cannabinoids and compounds into an intermediary that the bill classifies as a "hemp-derived ingredient". This ingredient is an extract that is diluted when creating federally compliant hemp tinctures, capsules, edibles or foods. The moratorium would prohibit this intermediary step during which the naturally concentrated Delta-9-THC concentrations exceed the 0.3%. It is important to note that this intermediate ingredient exists only temporarily during production of the products and is not present in concentrations of over 0.3% THC in the final product made available to the public.

The proposed legislation purports to increase the safety of Maine residents. Unfortunately this is just not the case. This proposed legislation is flawed and would negatively impact both consumers and all hemp companies growing, manufacturing or selling hemp products in Maine.

- We support common sense legislation that protects Maine's consumers, businesses and farmers. This proposed legislation is not.
- Current laws already protect Maine residents, but are not fully enforced
- Companies like ours would be forced to move or shut down and terminate all employees
- Thousands of employees in this industry would be impacted
- Effect would set back Maine economy and reputation
- The Maine State Motto on the State Seal says "Dirigo," I lead. If this proposed legislation is enacted, we will no longer be leading, we will instead be falling behind and unable to participate in the growing global hemp industry.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Bradley Feuer
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