

MAINE CANNABIS UNION An affiliate of International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Labor Union, 698 Lisbon St, Lisbon, ME 04252

Honorable Right to Know Committee, Honorable Chairperson Senator Anne Carney, Honorable Chairperson Representative Matt Moonen, and all the Honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Jennifer Belcher. I am a caregiver and a cancer survivor. I serve as Board Trustee of the Maine Cannabis Union, an affiliate of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Labor Union I appear before you today to relay the opposition of the Maine Cannabis Union to LD 2215.

We request that the Judiciary Committee consider the hard work of industry stakeholders, the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee and the VLA Subcommittee, and even the Office of Cannabis Policy, as we sat together in long biweekly meetings from October 2023 to January 2024. During these meetings, when subchapter 2425, subtitle 12 was discussed at length, on 11/14/2023, all those present agreed that this subchapter needed revision and that the revisions needed were not routine technical recodification matters. The President of the Maine Cannabis Union (Susan Meehan) participated in all of these recodification Subcommittee meetings, and the Subcommittee labeled these types of matters "parking lot" matters to be extensively analyzed and revisited after the recodification process finishes routine technical changes.

The Subcommittee, together with the industry stakeholders and OCP, were in unanimous agreement that subchapter 2425 needed change as reflected in these recorded, broadcast, public meetings. At no time during the 11/14 meetings or any Subcommittee meeting before or after this date (10/12, 11/2, 11/14, 11/28,01/02) did the Office of Cannabis Policy representatives mention the possibility of addressing this matter as an emergency measure that they felt had to be addressed in the 131st Legislature.

We the industry participants realize that OCP did not exist as a government agency at the time this subparagraph was codified, and we can shed some light on this subchapter's necessity. This subchapter protects not only patient confidentiality, but also Maine families and citizens who operate small home based businesses and the neighborhood in which they exist. Should we create public lists of where legal small businesses are cultivating or storing a cash crop highly subject to theft? What about the safety of the caregivers, their family's safety, the safety of their neighbors when a list provides a potential hit list to thieves? Caregivers deal with theft regularly, and many cannot have a gun permit due to their involvement with cannabis. The protections in this complex chapter of law are far from a simple delete and replace. These protections warrant the due diligence of the committee of jurisdiction and of the industry stakeholders, primarily Maine small businesses that were deemed essential during the recent global pandemic. These small businesses, their owners, their owners' families and employees are Maine citizens who merit protection under Maine law. The Maine Cannabis Union asks that the Judiciary Committee deem LD 2215 OUGHT NOT TO PASS.

I thank each of you for your time today in hosting this public hearing, and I or my Board are available for any questions today or in future work sessions.

Jennifer Belcher, Trustee , Maine Cannabis Union

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Mainecannabisunion@gmail.com

MCU President Susan Meehan 207-861-1945

Jennifer Belcher 207-659-5493

MCU Vice President Peter Tranchemontagne, 207-608-7797