

Good Morning Honorable Legislators, Honorable Chairperson Hickman, Honorable Chairperson Supica and all the honorable members of the veterans and the legal affairs committee.

My name is Kevin Warren and I am standing here in front of you with hopes that LD 40 will be ought to pass. I have been in the Cannabis industry here in Maine since 2017. I helped open one of the very first cannabis in Lewiston Maine and the First Cannabis store in Presque Isle. Now I am currently the Lab Manager for UPTA Camp Edible Company.

Since I have been in this industry I have seen a lot of changes within the Industry from Medicinal cannabis to Adult Use Cannabis. Some for the good and some for the bad. Most recently though almost everything has been doing nothing but harassing people trying to make a living by producing and selling this plant.

Please correct me if I am wrong but with the tax money that this plant is generating this state would be hurting more financially. We all know that we currently are in the middle of a housing crisis. The taxes generated help to alleviate those burdens since the taxes that are going to help are most likely coming from some cannabis tax money.

But if OCP gets their way things will change drastically. Our Director attacked the Medical Community just a couple months ago by placing a media war about testing. I can tell you what that is a complete sham. We did our own investigating on this issue. I personally sent out numerous samples of the exact same product and got all completely different test results.

1 testing facility said it was clean, another testing facility gave me a passing test and upon submission again got 2 failing tests. Then another testing facility didnt detect the pesticide that the product failed for. They found a completely different pesticide in the product. How can the State let testing facilities operate like this. One failing test can put a company out of business. But with all these different test results it is truly asinine.

Our director also told the Newspaper that he doesnt consume cannabis from Maine... But he is a consumer. That would make sense why he came out publicly and said that Maine should be an import state.

What gets me though about OCP is when did they become a Law Enforcement Entity. I tried getting a video of OCP inspectors that went into a store in Aroostook county in Flak Jackets, Utility Belts and Knee Pads to do an inspection. When this inspection should have just been for an inspection over paperwork since this caregiver doesn't grow and has a storefront only. This is installing fear within the community. Is this what this organization wants, is us to be afraid of them.

Just a couple years ago Maine had the absolute best program and was leading the nation. I don't feel comfortable saying that we are leading the nation anymore in this industry. That is why I am For LD40 and should Ought to Pass. Thank You and God Bless