



Deem LD 40 OUGHT TO PASS and SAVE MAINE CANNABIS!



Dirigo. I lead. Maine leads. Good morning honorable legislators, honorable Chairperson Senator Craig Hickman, Honorable Chairperson Laura Supica, and all the honorable members of the Veteran's and Legal Affairs Committee. My name is Scotty Ouellette. I am the Treasurer for the Maine Cannabis Union, an affiliate of IAMAW. A caregiver in Maine for about 10 years, I am proud to own the first union shop in Maine because my employees voted to join our Local 420. My manufacturing laboratory utilizes standard operating procedures I have developed, tested, and updated over the years. It is time to end the OCP campaign against this medicinal plant that for some provides the best pain salve, the best anti-seizure drug or a nightcap that helps Jane end the day happier than prescribed prozac, Doe's cigar, or John's adult-use hot toddy. End the failed drug war, and empower parents, patients, and consumers. Maine continues to grow the best outdoor cannabis in all its smelly glory, and we demand the end to the OCP campaign against the industry. End the stigma and eliminate background checks for convictions under unjust laws.

We, the industry in BOTH programs, call for no more pick-the-winners failed testing that has NO industry, state or federal standards. Perhaps we have not been clear about this. Standards and comparison to other products we consume similarly (like food and tobacco?) will quantify and legitimize testing. The stakeholders demand testing STANDARDS, perhaps established by a State operated laboratory to develop collaborative testing standards similar to ASTM<sup>1</sup> For several consecutive years we, the industry, have requested batch numbers and meaningful testing standards to offer confidence to consumers. The industry calls for no more "it's up to your individual inspector" nonsense in this industry that carried Maine through a world-wide pandemic as an essential service.

The OCP media war on medical cannabis has failed to move consumers to any public outcry – is this crowd here behind me here to support this rogue office? OCP has failed to incite fear by manipulating data that represents less than 1% of the market utilizing baseless testing procedures. My manufacturing lab recently submitted the same homogeneous concentrate from the same jar to several labs in Maine, and received 5 completely different results. We demand an end to mandated testing using flawed systems being used as a weapon to cripple the industry and to paint a media war by the very government agency that ought be tasked with supporting the industry. OCP continues to intimidate, showing up to people's homes and businesses in military-fatigue-style dress, issuing excessive fines and conducting repeated inspections interfering with business operations over nonsense like skinny leaves versus fat leaves or unfounded complaints. No one has been harmed, and no one has died. What is next in the OCP intimidation tool box? End OCP's war.

We demand a regulating agency funded by our program funds that shares our vision of our Maine small businesses building an EXPORT state based on Maine's well-known, often sun-grown, cannabis. By codifying the existence and standards of OCP and by addressing many of the flaws I have noted, LD 40 will remedy many industry wide issues. Remember dirigo, and help us continue to lead. Help us build a regulating agency that shares Maine's vision for this industry. Please deem LD 40 OUGHT TO PASS. Thank you for your time and attention to this hearing today.

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<sup>1</sup> ASTM: American Society for Testing and Materials, currently known as ASTM International, "American Society for Testing and Materials", ASTM is a developer of international voluntary consensus standards.