

DATE, MARCH 19TH, 2025

MAINE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS & LEGAL AFFAIRS [VLA]

SUBJECT: L.D.948

SENATE CHAIR HICKMAN

HOUSE CHAIR SUPICA

SENATE MINORITY LEAD CHAIR TIMBERLAKE

HOUSE MINORITY LEAD CHAIR BOYER

DISTINGUISHED VLA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

DEAR COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY TODAY. MY NAME IS TAMMY SMITH AND I HAVE BEEN IN THE MEDICAL PROGRAM SINCE 2017. OUR FAMILY BEGAN AS HOME-BASED CAREGIVERS/CULTIVATORS. IN 2020, WE OPENED A MEDICAL RETAIL STORE AND, IN THE FALL OF 2023, WE OPENED A STOREFRONT IN THE RECREATIONAL MARKET.

I AM TESTIFYING THIS MORNING AS THE BOARD CHAIR FOR MMCM, A TRADE ASSOCIATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO ADVOCATE, LEGISLATE AND EDUCATION FOR THE CANNABIS INDUSTRY IN MAINE.

MMCM IS IN FAVOR OF L.D. 948

ALLOWING FOR AN INCREASED PLANT COUNT FROM 30 TO 60 MATURE PLANTS OR UP TO 1000 SQUARE FEET OF PLANT CANOPY FROM 500 SQUARE FEET LEVELS THE PLAYING FIELD FOR SMALL-SCALE CULTIVATORS ("SMALL CRAFT CULTIVATORS" AND "MOM & POP BUSINESSES") AND ALLOWS THEM TO GROW MORE PLANTS, INCREASING THEIR PRODUCTION CAPACITY AND MAKING THEM MORE COMPETITIVE AGAINST LARGER, BETTER-FUNDED OPERATIONS AND THE ILLICIT MARKET.

THE REDUCED CAREGIVER REGISTRY PAPERWORK SIMPLIFIES THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS FOR CAREGIVERS. THIS BILL LOWERS THE FINANCIAL BURDEN ON SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS BY REDUCING ASSOCIATED COSTS WHILE REDUCING THE WORKLOAD FOR REGULATORY BODIES, STREAMLINING THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CAREGIVER REGISTRY. AUTOMATIC RENEWAL OF A LICENSEE WITH NO VIOLATIONS FURTHER REDUCES THE WORKLOAD AND EFFICIENCY OF THE CAREGIVER REGISTRY.

TAMMY SMITH

BOARD CHAIR MMCM

SMALL BUSINESS OWNER

NEWPORT, MAINE