

Good Day Ladies and Gentlemen of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee.

My name is Amy McFarland.

I run Independence Farm with my husband.

Today I am testifying in opposition to LD# 104.

(An Act to Protect the Health of Medical Cannabis Patients and Streamline the Mandatory Testing of Cannabis)

First I would like to point out that "Fan Leaves" should be excluded from the definition of trim. They do not contain crystals, they are useless to us except for compost.

Next, this bill requires each batch of plants to be tested.  
A "Batch" can be as little as one plant, or up to 30+ plants.

I personally called a lab (Nova Analytics) and asked for a quote on what is required within this bill.  
I was quoted \$505.  
Let's say a farmer has 10 strains per harvest, that will cost the farmer \$5,050 per harvest just for testing.

Nevermind the constant increase in electricity, soil and other operating expenses.  
Unlike other businesses, we can't expand to offset our costs.  
Our hands are tied due to our licenses.

A caregiver's license is maxed out at 30 plants, or 500 sq feet plant canopy.  
We can't just throw in a few more plants like other farmers can.

As for patients, their access to heirloom medicine will be extremely limited.  
Many of these strains are low yielders and will not be profitable for a farmer to produce if testing is mandated.

Lastly, this bill states:  
Registrants of the inventory tracking system shall pay all costs and fees associated with the use of the inventory tracking system and other costs associated with keeping records.

How can the state of Maine force a business owner to pay for a tracking system and all expenses associated with it before ever knowing the costs?  
This seems unconstitutional.

We already have a tracking system, it's called sales receipts and Trip Tickets.  
If there ever is an issue, we can easily use these items to track the product(s) back.  
We don't need to reinvent the wheel, and pay for it too.

The excuse I keep hearing as to why we need mandatory testing and tracking is the triad.  
I think that is just an excuse.  
METRC's contract is up with the state in February of next year, and the poisonous chemicals these folks are importing from out of the country can't even be tested for.

With that said, I ask you all to vote "No" on LD#104.