



Mike Tipping
Senator, District 8

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and honorable members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee,

My name is Mike Tipping. I represent Senate District 8 in Penobscot County and I'm proud to present **LD 1488, An Act Regarding Cannabis Testing and the Manufacture of Cannabis and Hemp Products.**

This bill is designed to address some very specific issues facing cannabis businesses in rural Maine. These changes were suggested to me by Bobbie and Matt Stormann, the proprietors of Just Baked, a full-service recreational cannabis shop in Lincoln.

The bill would do two things: First, it would clarify that when cannabis products (such as cookies, gummies, fudge and candy) are made using cannabis extract or distillate those products only need to be tested for potency, homogeneity and cannabinoid profiles, and are not subject to a repeat of the testing that the extract has already been subject to, such as for contamination by foreign materials, water activity and microbials. These products would still be subject to all food safety laws.

Right now, the way the law has been interpreted, these bakers have to drive a sample of every batch of cookies they make almost three hours to Southern Maine and pay hundreds of dollars for testing, even though there's no possibility of contamination, as they're using a stable plant oil that has already undergone this same testing. These are cases where there are no manufacturing processes that would result in an increase in the concentration of any contaminants.

Secondly, this bill removes the prohibition on using manufacturing-related equipment, supplies and facilities for the manufacturing of cannabis and cannabis products and the manufacturing of hemp products.

This is another provision of law that, in practice, has led to a strange and counter-productive outcome.

Right now, it's perfectly legal for a kitchen or other facility to manufacture both products that contain cannabis and those that don't. They can bake a batch of cookies for sale with cannabis, then sanitize their equipment and make cookies without it. What they can't do is use that same equipment to also make products that contain hemp-derived ingredients like CBD.

This requires bakeries who want to do both, like Just Baked, to maintain two separate kitchens. It's an unneeded and burdensome restriction and a relic of a previous regulatory regime.

I appreciate your consideration of these changes to make Maine's regulation of cannabis products more rational and remove burdens on small businesses, especially those in northern and eastern Maine.