

Testimony in favor of LD1567
May 5th, 2025

Good morning, honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. My name is Matthew Bayliss, I'm a resident of Cumberland and I'm testifying today in favor of LD1567.

LD1567 promotes awareness, worker safety and responsible practices in Maine's cannabis industry. Large operators in Maine are deploying \$350K radiation machines to treat their cannabis before testing so that it will pass the required yeast and mold panel. I'm not here to fear monger, these machines will not make weed radioactive. I'm here to pass on what I've been told from every adult use patron, they prefer non irradiated cannabis and want clear labeling, unaware this practice was common.

A year and a half ago I urged OCP to implement this labelling requirement at an adult use rules hearing. They agreed, but the rule, implemented last November, only applies to cannabis remediated after failing tests. Operators exploit this loophole by irradiating before testing, avoiding disclosure. LD 1567 closes this gap, ensuring all irradiated cannabis is labeled and enshrining transparency in statute. I'd also urge the companies selling these machines and the operators using them to stop touting the technology as safe and clean until they produce data to back their claims. Just because we use this tech on produce doesn't guarantee consumer safety for something that is combusted and inhaled. Has any testing been done of treated cannabis that has been packaged for six months or a year?

This bill also mandates pre-use inspections of radiation machines, critical for employee safety. Currently, inspections often occur after machines operate, risking worker exposure. LD 1567 ensures proper installation and operation, protecting those near these devices.

I urge you to pass LD 1567 to uphold transparency and safeguard workers. Thank you for your time today, I'd be happy to answer any questions.