

Hebert, Michelle

From: Esther Porr <ekporr@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 2, 2025 4:18 PM
To: Hickman, Craig
Subject: OPPOSITION TO LD 1567

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Dear VLA Committee Member,

My name is Esther Rahal. I am an employee of an adult use cannabis company and I strongly oppose LD 1567.

*Irradiation is not unique to cannabis. In fact, **many everyday food products**—including spices, grains, fruits, and meats—are routinely treated with **ionizing radiation** to reduce harmful bacteria and extend shelf life. Despite this, consumers **rarely, if ever, see irradiation labeled** on food packaging in retail settings. Why? Because regulators understand that such labeling would **needlessly alarm the public** about a scientifically proven safety practice.*

*Yet under LD 1567, **Maine would become the only state in the country** to require explicit labeling for irradiated cannabis. This not only departs from national norms—it also risks creating **confusion and stigma** around a safe and widely accepted method of decontamination. Most consumers are not aware that irradiation is **non-thermal, non-radioactive, and does not degrade product quality**. Without careful educational context, a label can act like a warning—even when **there's no danger present**. **IT DOES NOT MAKE CANNABIS RADIOACTIVE!***

The consequences are real. By mandating this label, Maine could:

- **Drive away in-state consumers** who don't fully understand the science*
- **Undermine trust** in producers using safe, approved remediation practices*
- **Lose market share** to out-of-state competitors who also irradiate—but **don't have to label it***
- **Eventually risk becoming a net importer of cannabis** in an era of future interstate commerce, rather than a regional leader in clean, compliant production*

*This bill sends the wrong message—that Maine cannabis is uniquely in need of warning, even though it may be **among the safest and most rigorously tested in the country**.*

Irradiated cannabis is not radioactive. It is simply clean.

We should support education, not fear. We should elevate safe production methods, not stigmatize them through labeling mandates. Maine's cannabis industry deserves parity, clarity, and fairness—not isolation.

Thank you for your consideration and service to the State of Maine

Sincerely,

Esther Rahal