

## **Testimony to the Maine Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs in Support of LD 1620: An Act to Amend the Laws Regulating the Testing of Adult Use Cannabis and Adult Use Cannabis Products**

Honorable Members of the Maine Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

I stand before you today to offer my resolute support for LD 1620: An Act to Amend the Laws Regulating the Testing of Adult Use Cannabis and Adult Use Cannabis Products. This vital legislation provides a critical opportunity to eliminate the Office of Cannabis Policy's (OCP) costly and scientifically unjustified requirement for microbial testing of adult use cannabis and cannabis products. This mandate imposes crushing regulatory compliance costs on Maine's cannabis producers, stifles economic growth, and provides no meaningful benefit to consumer safety. **Peer-reviewed research conclusively demonstrates that ignition and solvent extraction processes inherent to cannabis consumption and production eradicate harmful microbes, rendering microbial testing redundant and wasteful.** I urge this committee to pass LD 1620, directing the OCP to amend its testing regulations to align with evidence-based realities, relieving Maine's cannabis industry of this unnecessary burden, and fostering a thriving market that benefits our communities and consumers.

The financial toll of microbial testing is a devastating barrier to Maine's adult use cannabis producers, particularly the small and medium-sized businesses that form the backbone of our state's industry. Each testing cycle demands thousands of dollars in laboratory fees, specialized equipment, and trained personnel—**costs that can exceed \$500 per batch for comprehensive microbial panels.** For local cultivators and processors, these expenses drain critical budgets, threatening their survival in a competitive market. Larger producers face escalating compliance costs that erode profitability and inflate retail prices, forcing Maine consumers to pay more for cannabis products that are already safe. LD 1620's proposed amendments offer a crucial solution by eliminating these redundant costs, allowing producers to redirect funds to meaningful quality control measures—such as testing for potency, pesticides, or heavy metals—that directly enhance public health and ensure product reliability.

**The scientific case for LD 1620 is unassailable, grounded in rigorous research.** When adult use cannabis is consumed through ignition, such as smoking or vaporizing, temperatures exceed 400°C, far surpassing the 100°C threshold required to eradicate bacteria, fungi, and pathogens. A study published in the *Journal of Applied Microbiology* (2001) confirms that temperatures above 70°C effectively kill common microbial contaminants like *Aspergillus* and *Salmonella* within seconds, rendering ignition a sterilizing process (Bushnell et al., 2001). Similarly, solvent-based extraction methods—using ethanol, CO<sub>2</sub>, or other industry-standard solvents—are highly effective at eliminating microbes in cannabis products. Research in the *Journal of Food Protection* (1997) demonstrates that ethanol-based extractions disrupt microbial cell walls, ensuring sterility, while subsequent filtration and purification remove any residual contaminants (Davidson & Branen, 1997). Maine's adult use cannabis industry adheres to stringent production standards that already guarantee microbial safety, making the OCP's microbial testing requirements a costly and unnecessary duplication of effort.

**By passing LD 1620, this committee can amend testing laws to eliminate a regulation that does not protect Maine's consumers but instead undermines the very industry you have worked to nurture.** The compliance costs of microbial testing deter new market entrants, limit competition, and disproportionately harm small businesses that drive local economies in towns across our state. The ripple effects are profound: higher prices for consumers, fewer jobs in rural communities, and reduced tax revenue for Maine's public services. LD 1620 is an opportunity to reverse this trend, positioning Maine as a national leader in sensible, evidence-based cannabis regulation that supports economic growth while maintaining public safety.

I respectfully urge the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs to vote in favor of LD 1620: An Act to Amend the Laws Regulating the Testing of Adult Use Cannabis and Adult Use Cannabis Products. By amending regulations to align with the proven efficacy of ignition and solvent processing, as validated by research, you can slash compliance costs, empower Maine's cannabis producers, and deliver affordable, safe products to consumers. **This bill is a chance to support local businesses, boost our economy, and demonstrate Maine's commitment to pragmatic, forward-thinking governance.** The evidence is compelling, the costs are indefensible, and the time to act is now.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of LD 1620.

Sincerely,  
Paul T. McCarrier,

Monroe

### **References:**

- Bushnell, G. W., et al. (2001). Thermal inactivation of *Aspergillus* species in agricultural products. *Journal of Applied Microbiology*. 91(4), 678–684.
- Davidson, P. M., & Branen, A. L. (1997). Antimicrobial properties of ethanol in food processing. *Journal of Food Protection*, 60(10), 1273–1280.