



May 5th, 2025

**To: Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Honorable Members of the  
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans & Legal Affairs**

**From: Alex McMahan  
Lewiston, Maine 04240**

**Subject: Support of LD 1620** *1620*

MCIA is in support of LD 1620. As some of you are likely aware, the testing protocol in Maine is not perfect. Our trade association has been working on this issue for a few years now, and we believe this bill introduces many of the reforms needed to significantly improve our testing framework.

This bill accomplishes three changes to how testing is conducted. The threshold for total yeast and mold is raised to 100k CFU, microbial testing is speciated to test for only harmful microbes, and the mandatory testing protocol begins with 10 passed tests, then transitions to audit tests.

The current testing is above and beyond the testing requirements for other products on the market. A selection of goods from the grocery store was submitted for the adult use cannabis mandatory test panel, and a majority of the products failed. This disproportionate regulation unfairly targets the cannabis industry. We only wish to be held to similar standards as other comparable industries.

Microbes are prolific on planet Earth. Fortunately, most are commensal. Many are even beneficial. Of the millions of microbes present on our planet, less than 1% are harmful for humans. Failing testing due to high results on a blanket microbial test is nonsensical. There are microbes in your body and in the air you are breathing.

Audit testing is the standard testing regime for nearly all consumable products. Testing every batch exceeds the general standard applied to most consumable products, rendering it unnecessary for ensuring public health and safety. This is evidenced by the absence of such requirements across other consumable products industries.

Testing is a complex topic, and there are nuances that will likely need to be covered in the work sessions, such as potentially performing a blanket test first, and only performing the speciated tests if the blanket test fails. We are happy to have these conversations, and believe that this bill is a strong starting point for the discussion.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex McMahan", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Alex McMahan  
Policy Lead  
Maine Cannabis Industry Association