

Good Day Ladies and Gentlemen of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee.

My name is Amy McFarland.

I run Independence Farm with my husband.

I am also a long time medical cannabis patient.

Today I am testifying in favor of LD# 1897.

(An Act Regarding Sun-grown Cultivation in the Medical Use and Adult Use Cannabis Industries)

Here in Maine we have a very short growing season for cannabis.

Botrytis (fungi), bugs and even deer can cause crop loss.

Increasing the plant count can help small outdoor farmers stay in business.

Next, allowing an assistant to assist a caregiver for a 30 day period after submitting an application will be extremely beneficial to the outdoor farmers.

During the fall harvest, they need to be able to fire and hire employees quickly.

This bill allows that to occur.

Within the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act, a "Collective" is defined as;  
"An association, cooperative, affiliation or group of caregivers who physically assist each other in the act of cultivation, processing or distribution of cannabis for medical use for the benefit of the members of the collective".

Cannabis farmers should be allowed to work collectively together just like any other type of farmer in Maine.

Within the adult use program, it is a requirement to test for mold and yeast.  
The current testing methods can not tell the difference between pathogenic and benign microbes.  
Due to this, mandatory testing for mold and yeast should be repealed.

In closing, I ask you all today to vote "Yes" on LD# 1897.