

LD 1897 Testimony

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the committee,

I am writing to testify in strong support of LD 1897.

This bill is a critical step forward in aligning Maine's cannabis testing requirements with current scientific knowledge, particularly as it pertains to sun-grown or outdoor cannabis. LD 1897 removes unnecessary and overly stringent testing parameters that do not reflect actual risks to consumer safety or product integrity, especially for cultivators who use sustainable, sun-grown methods.

Recent studies and expert reviews have shown that certain testing thresholds—such as those for microbial content—do not account for the natural environmental factors of outdoor cultivation, where beneficial microbes and natural variations are both expected and non-threatening. By applying the same standards across all cultivation methods without regard to context or science, the current testing regime puts small, sustainable cultivators at an unfair disadvantage.

This bill does not compromise consumer safety. Instead, it allows for science-based policy adjustments that protect both consumers and producers. It helps ensure Maine's regulatory framework is equitable, evidence-based, and supportive of environmentally sustainable agriculture.

Sun-grown cannabis plays a vital role in the local economy and ecological sustainability. LD 1897 supports this by recognizing the unique nature of outdoor cultivation and removing testing requirements that have no demonstrated public health benefit when applied to these methods.

I urge the committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1897. Thank you for your time and commitment to sensible cannabis policy.

Respectfully,

Leo Paquette