

Testimony of Jennifer Belcher

President, Maine Cannabis Union Association (Affiliate IAMAW)

In Support of LD 1897 – The Sun Grown Bill

Before the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

Date: [Insert Date]

Good morning Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee,

My name is Jennifer Belcher, and I am the President of the Maine Cannabis Union Association, proudly affiliated with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. I'm here today to express our strong and enthusiastic support for LD 1897, the Sun Grown Bill.

This bill resonates deeply with our members—caregivers, patients, families, and small business owners across the state who have built their lives and healing practices around Maine's medical cannabis program. LD 1897 supports exactly the kind of compassionate, sustainable, and community-rooted values that make Maine's program so special.

For many of us, sun-grown cannabis isn't just a method—it's a way of life. It connects us to the land, to nature, and to the original intent of this program: to grow safe, effective medicine that is accessible and affordable. The Sun Grown Bill recognizes and protects this practice, and we believe it would be a powerful and complementary addition to LD 1840.

Like LD 1840, this bill directly addresses some of the most harmful regulatory pressures we face—pressures that have forced many of our members out of business, limited patient access to critical medicine, and undermined decades of progress in community health and entrepreneurship.

I've seen firsthand how these policies have played out. I'm not only the president of the union, but also a business owner, caregiver, and a cancer survivor. I've treated patients and been one myself. When I was diagnosed with Stage 3B vulvar cancer, I turned to cannabis oil—RSO—grown with care, integrity, and a deep understanding of plant medicine. That medicine saved my life.

I didn't need a high-tech lab. I didn't need artificial lights or remediation. I needed the real plant, grown with sun, soil, science, and intention. That's what Maine cannabis has always been about.

LD 1897 helps preserve that. It provides a clear path for caregivers and cultivators who have chosen the sun and soil to continue serving their communities without being pushed out by

unnecessary barriers or overshadowed by industrial operations. It supports quality, sustainability, and patient choice.

We urge you to pass LD 1897 alongside LD 1840 and LD 1620. Together, these bills form a strong, interconnected solution to restore balance, fairness, and integrity to our medical cannabis program.

Let Maine continue to lead with compassion, community, and common sense.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to protecting what makes Maine's cannabis program truly unique.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Belcher

President, Maine Cannabis Union Association (Affiliate IAMAW)

Owner, Dirt Road Acres & Dirt Road Café

207-659-5493

JBelcherBKA@gmail.com