

Testimony of Joel Pepin, JAR Cannabis Company

In Support of LD 1897 – An Act Regarding Sun-grown Cultivation in the Medical Use and Adult Use Cannabis Industries

Before the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

Date: 5/7/2025

Chairman Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Committee,

My name is Joel Pepin, and I'm the founder of JAR Cannabis, an adult use and medical cannabis company based in Maine. I appreciate the chance to offer my full support for LD 1897.

Current microbial testing requirements make outdoor cultivation nearly impossible to sustain. Sun-grown cannabis is naturally exposed to microbes in the air and soil, even when grown cleanly and safely. As a result, outdoor flower often fails microbial testing despite being perfectly safe for consumers. LD 1897 removes this unnecessary barrier and gives sun-grown producers a fair shot.

We also support the repeal of yeast and mold testing for indoor cannabis. While indoor environments are more controlled, even small microbial presence can lead to costly failures. Even clean indoor cultivators can struggle to pass every microbial test.

With rising operating costs and falling cannabis prices, Maine producers need flexibility more than ever. Outdoor cultivation is one of the few options left to control expenses. We need regulations that allow cultivators to stay competitive without compromising product safety.

LD 1897 is a smart, practical fix. It supports both indoor and outdoor operators and encourages sustainable practices. It removes a testing standard that doesn't reflect actual risk and replaces it with common sense.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Joel Pepin
JAR Cannabis Company
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