



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 1365

MCIA is in support of LD 1365, as amended. This is an excellent, well thought out piece of legislation. On-site consumption is necessary for one simple reason. If you want people to quit smoking in the parks, in their cars, and on the sidewalks, you have to give them a place to go. It's the same logic behind bars for drinking alcohol. As with alcohol, consumption lounges will not fully eliminate public consumption. However, having a legal place to consume cannabis will reduce public consumption in a way that is beneficial for all parties - the pedestrian, park goer, and driver who is concerned about cannabis use in their vicinity, as well as the cannabis consumer who simply wants to medicate.

One of our members also pointed out that it is a social equity issue. Essentially, in Maine, you have to be a homeowner for using cannabis to be legal. It is prohibited to smoke in almost any rented or leased property, at any hotel, on the street, or in public places. There needs to be somewhere for people to go who want to partake legally.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

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

Alex McMahan
Policy Lead
Maine Cannabis Industry Association