

IN SUPPORT OF LD1920

May 15, 2025

Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker, and the members of the joint standing committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,

My name is Lizzy Hayes, I am an organic certified farmer and I have been growing hemp and making hemp products since 2019. I participated in the intoxicating hemp work group that met during the summer of 2024. The products that I make, and products which are made from the hemp that I grow for other producers, are not intended to intoxicate and the people who purchase them are not seeking intoxicating effects. They are seeking to use these herbal, dietary supplements and herbal salves and oils to improve their health. The language in this bill would draw a distinction between products which are made from a whole plant extraction of the plants resinous oils, for use in non-intoxicating products, versus product which are made by taking that whole plant extract and further processing it by isolating or synthesizing the compounds in it, in order to create products which are intended to have intoxicating effects.

This bill also takes an important step of prohibiting the sale of these products to minors. There was a bill heard before this committee last year which would have put a moratorium on all hemp products in an effort to protect children from accessing these products, but in that bill, the language would have also prohibited the sale of non-intoxicating products as well. This bill would make a clear distinction between the two so that if there was legislative will to further regulate or restrict these intoxicating products, as was proposed in legislation last year, that it would not endanger these small businesses making non-intoxicating products. We would like to ensure that farmers and producers will no longer need to come to the statehouse during the farm planning and planting season in order to defend and protect what we do and the products we make, when these bills are intending to regulate products that we do not make.

I have discussed the language of this bill during the hemp working group, and with other hemp products makers, with folks operating in the medical cannabis program and the adult use cannabis program, and with folks who make intoxicating hemp products. I have not been made aware of any concerns about the way this definition functions or how it is constructed. The only critique that I have gotten is that perhaps the limitations or regulations placed on these intoxicating products should go some steps further. I hope that through adopting the language of this bill, people like myself will not have to be involved in future conversations about how Maine would choose to regulate these hemp derived intoxicating products.

Thank you for your consideration and I ask that you vote OUGHT TO PASS on LD1920.