131st Legislature
Senate of Maine
Senate District 24

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Testimony of Senator Eloise Vitelli supporting

LD 1996, An Act to Regulate Synthetic Hemp-derived Cannabinoids

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

_____, 2024

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker, and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, my name is Eloise Vitelli, and I proudly represent Senate District 24, which includes all of Sagadahoc County and Dresden. Today I am pleased to testify in favor of LD 1996, "An Act to Regulate Synthetic Cannabinoids."

When my colleague Senator Pierce asked me to co-sponsor this bill, she explained that some hemp-derived delta-9 THC companies are offering inaccurately labeled products that contain more TCH than would be allowed in adult-use states, including Maine.

Being someone who cares deeply about caring for and nurturing children and youth, as well as investing in their growth and development, I am concerned that Maine youth have access to unregulated intoxicating hemp-derived delta 9 products in gas stations and grocery stores.

One example is Calexo's Long Coast, which is a hemp-derived delta-9 product that is sold and distributed in Maine gas stations, liquor stores, and grocery stores. The product has no licenses, testing requirements, packaging requirements, or age gates. It is not subject to the same tax as state legal marijuana. There is no difference between this beverage and the beverages that state-licensed marijuana companies produce. Anyone could buy it.

LD 1996 would regulate products, like Calexo's Long Coast, and protect our young, vulnerable consumers from drinking or inhaling hemp-derived delta-9 THC products that contain 5 milligrams of hemp-derived delta-9 THC.

I would urge the committee to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1996.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Eloise

Eloise Vitelli

Senate Majority Leader, Senate District 24
Sagadahoc County and Dresden