

Hello, my name is Bill Fortin and I live in the Town of Shirley. I am writing in support of LD 1242, submitted by Representative Williams.

I own approximately 120 acres of land and for many years I grew organic vegetables. About 9 years ago, I decided I would also grow medical marijuana and I have been doing that successfully since that time. I grow in greenhouses and outdoors and also still grow the vegetables. This has allowed me to help those in my community and the nearby region obtain safe, organically grown medical marijuana. There are literally no businesses in the Town of Shirley, I am really the only one . I pay my taxes to the state and have a good working relationship with the Town. I am very concerned about this new rule regarding security systems. Since I grow in greenhouses I will be required to obey security requirements.

I live on 120 acres. My greenhouses are 700 feet from the road. No one can see my greenhouses unless they are on the property and there are multiple “no trespassing” signs posted at the entrance to the property. According to this regulation I will have to have 24/7 illumination either around the greenhouses or the entrance to the property. My property is near Moosehead Lake. This is a dark skies area. Also, I cannot grow my outdoor crop with this illumination as they will be exposed to the light and they cannot have light on them at night!

These new regulations imposed by OMP are impractical, costly and unnecessary. I think the unlimited power of OMP to impose rules like these is very wrong and the Legislature should control what power OMP has. Simple rules, like paperwork rules, are fine. Rules that will cost small businesses thousands of dollars are not, and should receive more and better review.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Bill Fortin, Shirley, Maine