

Daniel Crawford  
Monticello  
LD 948

To the Honorable Members of the Maine Legislature and the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

My name is Daniel Crawford, and I write as an advocate for Maine's cannabis industry with experience as a former caregiver under the medical program. I strongly support Legislative Document No. 948, An Act to Reduce Administrative Burdens and Expand Access in the Laws Governing Cannabis, because it addresses the critical issue of crop loss for outdoor growers, enhances business viability, and unlocks research opportunities for small-scale medical producers.

Outdoor cannabis cultivation in Maine is a gamble. Our short growing season brings risks—early frosts, heavy rains, pests—that can wipe out significant portions of a crop. Under the current license limits of 30 mature plants or 500 square feet of canopy, a single weather event can devastate a small producer's yield, leaving no buffer to recover. L.D. 948 doubles those limits to 60 plants or 1,000 square feet, offering a practical solution. A larger canopy spreads the risk, ensuring that even with losses, enough plants survive to sustain a business. This isn't just about survival—it's about making outdoor growing a viable option in a state where unpredictable conditions are the norm.

For small producers, viability is everything. The current restrictions keep operations so lean that one bad season can erase profits and halt momentum. Doubling the license size changes that equation, providing the scale to absorb setbacks and generate consistent revenue. It's a straightforward fix: more plants mean more stability, allowing growers to build resilient businesses without relying on costly indoor setups. This bill strengthens Maine's cannabis economy by giving small operators the tools to succeed.

Equally important, L.D. 948 creates a platform for research. Maine's unique climate—short seasons and variable weather—offers a chance to pioneer cannabis genetics tailored to outdoor success. With a larger license, small-scale medical producers can test diverse chemovars, identifying strains that mature quickly, resist environmental stress, and diverse cannabinoids. This isn't a solo effort; dozens of growers across the state could collaborate, trialing new genetics and sharing findings. The result? High-performing cultivars that thrive here and position Maine as a leader in cannabis innovation, with potential for global impact.

I've seen firsthand how restrictive limits hinder progress. L.D. 948 lifts that burden, protecting outdoor growers from crippling crop losses and empowering them to research the future of cannabis. Pass this bill, and Maine's fields will yield not just medicine, but economic strength and scientific advancement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel Crawford

Advocate for Cannabis Business Viability and Research