

Steven Robinson  
Robinsons of Maine LLC  
LD 948

My name is Steven Robinson (not the reporter) and I operate a craft cannabis caregiver cultivation on our family farm in Albion. I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 948.

Our farm has been in the family since 1810 and is now being cared for by the sixth and seventh generations of our family. We grow medical cannabis outdoors because we like gardening in the natural soil and sun.

But it is a challenging environment to grow cannabis outdoors in Maine. We believe that our cannabis benefits from being grown in the rich soil of Kennebec Valley with sustainable farming techniques and the full-day summer sun and great water conditions we enjoy with a spring-fed pond adjacent to the grow. Our patients far prefer our natural sun-grown product over that grown under LED with forced chemical-based nutrients. Our flower tends to have higher levels of terpenes, resulting in flavors and beneficial effects that are not usually found in indoor-grown flower.

The wild fluctuation in the weather over the last five growing seasons has meant considerable stress and wide variations in the amount and condition of our harvest. The doubling of the number of permissible plant count would be a great help in reaching economic viability. In a small town like ours, it is impractical to seek an ordinance to have a dispensary license, so being able to cultivate more plants under our caregiver license would help us compete more effectively with indoor grows that are able to run multiple cycles each year.

We also strongly support the reduced burden of the registration process that would result from the changing the license period from one year to two years. Changing the annual requirement to a biennial requirement would reduce the paperwork burden on both the caregiver and the regulator and would not introduce any increased risk into the medical cannabis program.

Thank you.