

Connor Cohan
South Portland
LD 104

Hi -

I run a small cannabis cultivation facility in the medical space. I have talked to testing facilities and friends in the adult use space and have seen that the costs associated with testing are over \$500 per strain per harvest. That cost alone will put every small cultivation site out of business.

In today's market (for every consumer packaged good) the consumer demands variety. It doesn't matter if it's cannabis, beverages (alcohol or non-alc), snacks, etc. etc. everyone wants variety. So, as a grower, we have had to grow as many strains as possible every single harvest. We all wish we didn't have to, but that is what the market demands. So, this cost of testing alone will rack up well into the thousands every single harvest. All small grows will go under, and only the big money grows will survive. On top of that, they will cut down on variety to cut costs and ultimately hurt the consumer who is looking for specialized medicine and specific terpenes that help their specific needs.

I don't disagree that consumers deserve some level of testing to ensure they are receiving safe products. However, the way it is currently designed will destroy the medical industry the way it stands today. Myself and my business partners work day in and out to ensure that we have a clean facility and provide top shelf product to our customers. We get inspected every year, have to jump through hoops with our bank, and comply with everything required by the state and our town.

I just worry these new rules would just end up forcing all small businesses out of the industry leaving only the big money operations to take over after a short period of time. Maine did such a good job in allowing small businesses to get into this industry and make it what it is. Maine designed the industry to run the way capitalism was intended to be run. Please do not ruin that. We already see that happening across the country in other industries. Please, let Maine lead the way in how things should be done. The way life should be.

Thank you.