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As the owner of a newly opened small-batch, artisan craft medical cannabis company based here in Maine, Myself and Spacebound Edibles are deeply concerned about the potential implementation of mandatory testing modeled after the recreational cannabis market. While we wholeheartedly support patient safety and product quality, imposing a testing regime designed for large-scale recreational operations would be devastating for small medical providers like us. The sheer cost and logistical burden of testing every single batch, often produced with unique formulations and in limited quantities to meet specific patient needs, would create an unsustainable financial strain. This could very well force many small, dedicated caregivers and businesses out of the market, severely limiting patient access to the diverse range of medical cannabis products they rely on.

The current medical cannabis framework in Maine allows for a more nuanced approach, often built on direct patient-caregiver relationships and a focus on specific therapeutic outcomes. Implementing recreational-style mandatory batch testing fails to recognize these crucial distinctions. Our commitment to quality stems from a deep understanding of our patients' needs and meticulous production processes, not necessarily from the economies of scale that make per-batch testing feasible for larger operations. We believe that a more appropriate regulatory framework for medical cannabis should consider the unique challenges faced by small-batch producers and prioritize accessible, affordable medicine for Maine patients. We urge you to carefully consider the potentially catastrophic impact such a policy shift would have on our local medical cannabis community and the patients we serve.

We are not opposed to ensuring product safety; in fact, it is paramount to our mission at Spacebound Edibles. However, we believe there are alternative, more sustainable methods for achieving this within the medical cannabis sector. This could include the exploration of more cost-effective testing methodologies suitable for small-scale production. We implore you to engage in meaningful dialogue with small medical cannabis businesses like ours before making decisions that could inadvertently dismantle a vital part of Maine's healthcare landscape. We are eager to share our experiences and collaborate on solutions that protect both patient safety and the viability of our local craft medical cannabis industry.

Thank you