

Brian Mahoney

Retail Manager at a Licensed Adult Use Cannabis Store in Maine

My name is Brian, and I run a licensed adult use cannabis store here in Maine. I'm writing to voice my opposition to LD 1567.

In 2024, Maine brought in more than \$27 million from adult use cannabis through sales and excise taxes. Introducing a labeling mandate like this—based on fear rather than facts—risks spooking customers and shrinking that revenue. Fewer sales don't just hurt businesses like mine; they cut into the very tax stream that supports public services in our state. And adding new oversight costs, like hiring radiation experts, only stretches resources thinner.

Retailers like me rely on safe, state-regulated processes—like X-ray and ozone treatments—to ensure the cannabis we sell is clean and compliant. These methods are widely used in food and medical industries and pose no threat to consumer health. What they do is help us meet Maine's strict microbial limits and avoid costly product recalls.

We've already seen what happens when products fail OCP's randomized audit testing. Even if we had nothing to do with the cultivation or sampling, our storefronts can end up in news headlines for products that were previously approved. It damages our reputation through no fault of our own.

Supporters of this bill have said x-ray doesn't kill mycotoxins. This is true. However, the State of Maine currently does not require mycotoxin as a required testing panel on the first round of cannabis testing. I've also heard people say that treating cannabis with xray can increase or release mycotoxins – this is **not** true. Mycotoxin testing is only required after a batch has failed microbial testing, post remediation. According to OCP's website, this has happened more than 400 times (retested batches of failed cannabis flower) since the inception of the AU program, and zero times have mycotoxins been found. Data clearly shows that remediated flower doesn't not have mycotoxins.

And this bill plays right into public confusion. The word "radiation" sounds scary, but we're talking about safe, non-radioactive methods—used every day to make food safer and medical tools sterile. Slapping a label on products that have gone through this process sends the wrong message and could push customers toward untested, unregulated markets where there are no rules or safeguards.

There's no public health data justifying this requirement. If there were, I'd be the first to call for more transparency. But there isn't. All this bill does is put more weight on the shoulders of licensed operators and mislead consumers about what's actually safe.

I strongly urge the committee to vote against LD 1567 and stand with Maine's regulated, tax-generating cannabis industry.

No other State in the Country requires this type of labeling requirement. This is bad for Maine's Cannabis legacy.

If transparency is the goal, there is nothing that prevents producers from labeling their products 'not treated with x-ray or ozone'.

Thank you

Brian Mahoney
Harrison
LD 1567

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