

LD1567 – opposition testimony

Colleen Stauder

My name is Colleen, and I manage a licensed adult use cannabis store in Maine. I'm submitting testimony in firm opposition to LD 1567.

This bill singles out responsible businesses in the adult use market—businesses like mine that are held to the highest safety and compliance standards in the cannabis industry. We are already meeting rigorous state requirements for testing, labeling, and product handling.

To meet Maine's extremely strict microbial standards, cannabis producers have been using this technology to make their products shelf stable. Since I oversee a retail store, I want to be sourcing products that are shelf stable and that will pass an audit test by our regulator. These technologies help ensure that our customers receive clean, shelf-stable products. Adding a label warning would send the wrong message and sow unnecessary fear or confusion among consumers.

There has been no data shared that demonstrates a health risk from these remediation techniques. If anything, the greater risk lies in products from the illicit and hemp-derived markets, which face no testing requirements or labeling rules.

Legal operators are already doing more with less while trying to keep pace with unregulated competitors. Adding new labeling requirements now would only make it harder to maintain consumer trust in Maine's regulated cannabis system.

This labeling requirement would cost the State of Maine significant money in the form of OCP hiring new physicists and by hurting sales tax and excise tax revenue.

Supporters say this is about transparency. But real transparency would be voluntary labeling for any product that wants to advertise "non-remediated" status. This bill just creates stigma and confusion around safe, regulated practices.

The reality is, no indoor cultivation facility in Maine is passing 100% of their microbial tests. This equipment is an insurance policy for the small business of Maine. It's not a way to cut corners. These tools exist to help operators meet our state's strict standards—and they work.

This bill doesn't protect consumers—it misinforms them. No other State in the US has a labeling requirement proposed in this bill.

I respectfully ask the committee to vote no on LD 1567.

Thank you.