

jason kuvaja
bridgton
LD 1669

As a brief introduction,

My name is Jason Kuvaja, life long Mainer, graduate of Maine College of Art 1997. Pertinent to this topic, I am a person with nearly thirty years experience with breeding, growing, and medicinal use of the cannabis plant. Including releasing Maine's Blueberry Cannabis in the 1990s. My experiences predate our legal programs, and I am looking to add legal experience in the business, as I await an application to start my nursery. I took a break from much of my work while raising my children, and have re-engaged with a subject that is important to me. I also feel cannabis policy relates to larger issues, so it is a small but, I feel, effective way to engage in civic service, and activism.

With all the introductions said, I would ask the committee to remember the spirit of the Legalization effort. We asked the State to give us safe, legal, cannabis, and end drug war prosecutions over the plant. We wanted simple legality, and the kind of safety we enjoyed with our food and medicines. Many of us were well aware of bad practices in some illicit grows, and also had memories of paraquat spraying to eradicate cannabis. We wanted an end to prohibition that put farming and marketing of a plant we knew was safe and useful, into the hands of both organized, and petty criminals.

In order to help remind the Cannabis Advisory Council of these basic truths, I will only support the Council if its is a majority of patients and consumers. People not employed, or licensed in either adult, or medical use. They should also not be representatives of municipalities, or trade groups, regulators, ect. Just citizen consumers/patients.

Thank your for reading this rather long winded testimony. I'm happy to answer any questions members of the esteemed committee may have.