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Date: April 10, 2019 at 11:29:35 PM EDT

To: pcowell@auburnmaine.gov

Subject: Marijuana Ordinances and Zoning Requirements

April 10, 2019

To: City of Auburn, Maine - City Council

My name is Markie Casagrande. First, I'd like to thank you for your time in working to create the ordinances and zoning related to medical marijuana and the adult use program in the city of Auburn. The work done by the Planning Board, and the Auburn City Council do is important to business and the continued growth of Auburn.

I am a nurse serving the community in Auburn, where I also live. I have seen the beneficial nature of medical marijuana in patients with an array of disorders. I also expect adult use to positively affect the community in several ways. Specifically, small business owners already operating in the city of Auburn have had great success in the medical marijuana program so it can be expected that the adult use program will only boost these businesses.

My partner operates a medical marijuana cultivation only facility in Auburn, which is why I am writing you. I most specifically would like to speak to the 1,000-foot setbacks between marijuana businesses. While I think it is important to regulate how many stores can operate in an area, there are many branches to marijuana business. I am mainly concerned that the 1,000-foot setbacks between cultivation facilities would likely hurt more business possibly losing revenue for the city of Auburn. I understand there may be concerns with odor control, but there are solutions to that issue as indicated in the ordinance. Businesses who want to operate and expand should consider this and take action when needed as related to odor control.

From my understanding the planning board spent a fair amount of time discussing these ordinances. Through these discussions, and public comments, the Planning Board recommended the 1,000 foot setbacks between marijuana cultivation sites be removed from the current ordinance. They do recommend the 1,000-foot setbacks for marijuana retail stores though. I support these findings.

In conclusion, I wanted to share my concerns about the impact the 1,000-foot setbacks would have on cannabis cultivation businesses in Auburn. Marijuana cultivation facilities are required to keep a secure location, as to keep business owners and the community safe. Placing these setbacks would only make it more difficult for business owners to operate. Again, thank you for your time and involvement in moving this industry forward.

Best regards,

Markie Casagrande