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Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 7:23 PM

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Subject: Senate Bill S.241 Now in House Judiciary Committee

Hello Representatives,

My name is Galen Dively. I am writing as a private resident and property owner of Walden Vermont.

Passed Senate Bill S.241 is currently before you in the House Judiciary Committee. In my opinion there are some serious issues, regarding a persons ability to grow pot for themselves codified and not reliant on some future commission's decision, in the current passed bill that were actually addressed in the proposed bill. The proposed bill allowed individuals 21 and older to grow 100 square feet of cannabis for personal use and for the storage of surplus. These provisions are not in the passed version. The passed version seems to trade a black market with draconian laws for something not unlike Fascism yet with the same draconian laws. Really. It keeps all current criminal laws intact yet allows the State a system of making money off every ounce smoked. That's not freedom.

Getting State revenue from cannabis is one thing. I can get around that idea. Having some future commission decide if we as free Vermonters can or cannot grow cannabis for personal use under a bill that purports to treat "responsible use of marijuana by adults 21 years of age or older should be treated the same as responsible use of alcohol" is at best a minor oversight. At worse, it's an attempt by out of state interests intent on created a highly regulated industry to replace the current black market one all the while protecting this new state sponsored industry with the same draconian laws we were trying to address in the first place. If this is the case, we shouldn't call it legalization or reform.

Please do what you can in adding back language protecting Vermonter's right to grow a plant they then use or share with other adults codified in a bill. The State would still benefit tremendously. You not only getting brownie points from libertarians and freedom/liberty types for addressing past "mistakes", but you are generating a sizable economy just by allowing us to grow our own. This would free up to \$10,000 a year spent on pot that could be spent on local businesses and/or to help with property taxes. Just saying.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Galen Dively

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