

Testimony of Richard Lisé
Vice-President and Partner, Vintage Foods Ltd.
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing - March 7, 2012

H.B. No. 5389 (RAISED) JUDICIARY "AN ACT CONCERNING THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA"

Co-Chair Coleman, Co-Chair Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Richard Lisé. I am Vice-President and Partner in Vintage Foods Ltd. and a long-time resident of Ledyard, Connecticut. I represent what the business face of medicinal marijuana should look like in Connecticut and I am here today to lend my support to bill number 5389, "An Act Concerning the Palliative Use of Marijuana."

I would like to recognize the efforts of the legislators and advocates responsible for bringing us to this moment. Some have said this bill is a job engine, a tax generator and a business opportunity however it is the relief and compassionate assistance this medicine will bring to the many patients suffering throughout our great state, that you should be commended for.

As a Connecticut business, our mission will be to operate a grow facility, functional food manufacturing kitchen and dispensary to serve the registered patients within our state.

Our food products will be rich in antioxidants to boost the immune system, support cardiovascular health and build overall wellness. Each dose will be laboratory standardized and labeled to identify the cannabinoid profile and active ingredient potency. This is fundamental in allowing the doctor to assist the patient in choosing the correct medicine for their individual needs as well as determining how much to use.

Food is medicine and it is an excellent delivery system for medicinal marijuana but this should not preclude a smoking option for those in need of immediate relief.

Bill 5389 makes no provisions for nonsmoking delivery systems, specifically food & beverage products. On the patients' behalf, I strongly urge language be included to address this need.

Our advisory team includes Dr. Sheldon Hendler, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Medicinal Food and Author of the PDR for Nutritional Supplements. Franwell, Inc. who was awarded the bid to provide a radio frequency identification system for The State of Colorado's Medicinal Marijuana Department of Revenue to track the state's program on a web-based platform.

Our in-house management team includes expertise in organic farming, food production and logistics as well as management skill sets in business, agriculture, culinary arts, licensed alcoholic beverage dispensing, retailing and pharmacology.

I come today before the Judiciary Committee not to tout my company's expertise but to illustrate how seriously we take the medicine, the program and most importantly the patients it will benefit.

Our obligation is to follow this proposed legislation if passed, to the letter and spirit of the law. We understand the sense of community that needs to be developed and maintained on behalf of the patient's wellbeing and we will offer a Compassion Assistance Program providing help for veterans, fixed income seniors and terminally ill patients.

Our mission is clear - to insure that safe, secure and controlled medicine be made available to the patient. To achieve that goal effectively and efficiently, we ask for a business environment that is well designed, practical and sustainable. It is imperative that any regulation, not favor large existing out-of state corporations, some of whom are here today visiting Connecticut for the very first time.

Ladies and Gentleman of the Judiciary Committee. We are the business face of medicinal marijuana, a face that can be trusted and depended on. I give you my word that my company will do exactly as I have outlined today and more. We will help make the State of Connecticut's medicinal marijuana program the most professional and most secure in the country.

Thank you.