



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

April 18, 2018

Deb Peters
Senator – District 9
South Dakota
President, NCSL

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William T. Pound
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The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rand Paul
Senator
United States Senate
167 Russell Senate Office Building
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The Honorable Ron Wyden
Senator
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Senator
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Re: The Hemp Farming Act of 2018

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Senator Rand Paul, Senator Ron Wyden, and Senator Jeff Merkley,

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the bipartisan organization representing the legislatures of our nation's states, territories and commonwealths, we strongly commend you on the introduction of the Hemp Farming Act of 2018.

As you know, hemp has a long history as a sustainable and profitable crop, and has great potential as a new crop for American agriculture and industry. According to Vote Hemp, an estimated \$687 million worth of hemp products were sold in the U.S. in 2016, including foods, body care products, clothing, auto parts, building materials, and paper. Unfortunately, however, most of these products were made from imported hemp due to federal policy prohibiting commercial hemp farming.

While NCSL believes that current federal policies to obstruct industrial hemp farming are outdated and must be changed to define hemp as a distinct agricultural crop and allow state regulation of commercial hemp farming, we also recognize that decisions affecting American agriculture must reflect a working partnership of the federal government with the states in both the formulation and implementation of policy. As introduced, the Hemp Farming Act of 2018

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effectively balances these requirements by removing federal restrictions on hemp, authorizing states to regulate its growth and production and providing federal resources to help ensure its success. However, we also believe the legislation could be strengthened by increasing the legally allowable concentration of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) to a maximum of 1 percent, rather than .3 as currently stated in Section 6 of the bill.

We look forward to working with you to ensuring a leading role for states in regulating commercial hemp farming. If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact NCSL staff, Ben Husch (ben.husch@ncsl.org) and Kristen Hildreth (kristen.hildreth@ncsl.org).

Sincerely,



Representative Curt McCormack
Vermont House of Representatives
Co-Chair, Natural Resources and
Infrastructure Committee, NCSL



Representative Ed Orcutt
Washington House of Representatives
Co-Chair, Natural Resources and
Infrastructure Committee, NCSL