

Request for Cosponsor(s)

Support Common-Sense, Farmer-Friendly CBD Regulation

Cosponsors: Comer, Massie, Pingree

Dear Colleague:

I invite you to become a cosponsor of H.R. 5587, a bill aimed at ensuring a common-sense, farmer-friendly approach to the regulation of hemp-derived cannabidiol (CBD) and products containing hemp-derived CBD.

The 2014 Farm Bill established a hemp research pilot program, garnering the attention of farmers across the country who were interested in the potential of a new crop. The 2018 Farm Bill expanded upon the 2014 pilot program and excluded hemp from the definition of marijuana under the Controlled Substances Act if the hemp contained no more than a 0.3% concentration of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol. These actions by the Federal government and continued interest from farmers have since led to a sharp increase in domestic hemp acreage. While just under 10,000 acres of hemp were grown in 2016, over 500,000 acres of hemp were licensed for production in 2019.

Moving forward, a major determinant for the future success of the domestic hemp industry will be how the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates hemp-derived CBD and products containing CBD. This substance, a non-psychoactive compound derived from hemp, is currently being marketed to consumers as an ingredient in a variety of cosmetics, foods, beverages, and topical products. However, because CBD has been previously approved for use in an epilepsy medication, FDA claims it cannot regulate hemp-derived CBD as a dietary supplement without undergoing a lengthy rulemaking process due to a Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) statutory restriction placed upon compounds that were previously approved for pharmaceutical use or investigated for use as a pharmaceutical ingredient.

This legislation would amend the FFDCA to give FDA flexibility to regulate hemp-derived CBD as a dietary supplement without going through the time-intensive rulemaking process. This much needed action would provide hemp farmers and consumers with certainty as to how FDA will regulate this portfolio of products. Additionally, H.R. 5587 would require a study and report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the market and regulatory barriers impacting the economic viability of hemp farmers and the ability of states to successfully establish programs that will support emerging hemp industries. This report will provide both farmers and policy makers with information aimed at supporting the long-term success of the domestic hemp sector.

If you have any additional questions or would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Brandon Honeycutt at Brandon.Honeycutt@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress

Related Legislative Issues

Selected legislative information: Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, HealthCare

Related Bill Information

Bill Type: H.R.
Bill Type: 5587
Special Note: