

U.S. Hemp Roundtable

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VIA EMAIL

April 8, 2021

Rep. Dewayne Burns
Chair, House Agriculture & Livestock Committee

Sen. Kelly G. Hancock
Chair, Senate Business & Industry Committee

RE: H.B. 3948 by Rep. T. King/S.B. 1778 by Sen. Perry – the Hemp Clean-up Bills

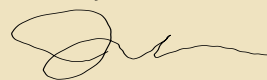
I write on behalf of the U.S. Hemp Roundtable, the hemp industry's national business advocacy organization, that represents dozens of leading hemp businesses and organizations committed to safe hemp and CBD products. Members are located across the country and represent each link of the hemp supply and sales chain.

The Roundtable would like to register its general support of H.B. 3948 and its companion, S.B. 1778. We also support the efforts to strengthen the bill and the Texas Hemp Program by repealing of Texas Agriculture Code Section 122.301(b) and Texas Health and Safety Code Section 443.204(4). These provisions purport to ban the manufacturing and processing of hemp for "smoking" as defined by Texas Health and Safety Code Section 443.001(11).

The ban on the manufacture and processing of smokable hemp products serves only to force businesses — along with the capital investment and the current jobs that they provide — out of state. Amid the struggles faced by farmers in this difficult agricultural economy, H.B. 3948 and S.B. 1778 would give Texas farmers maximum flexibility to market their hemp crop at the best prices available. This is important to the success of the Texas hemp industry and its potential for significant growth in the years to come.

The U.S. Hemp Roundtable supports a well-regulated legal hemp market that rewards responsible actors in the marketplace and protects consumers while discouraging irresponsible business practices. The current statutory ban fails to meet those goals as, in practice, the irresponsible actors will continue participating in the marketplace, while responsible actors will be forced to shut down or leave the state, impairing critical economic opportunities for Texas hemp farmers.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Miller
General Counsel
U.S. Hemp Roundtable

2021 U.S. HEMP ROUNDTABLE

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