



June 3, 2022

Secretary Thomas J. Vilsack
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20250

Secretary Vilsack,

As leading organizations and companies in the U.S. hemp industry, we proudly endorse and strongly support the grant proposal by Tennessee State University alongside the University of Tennessee, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and the Hemp Alliance of Tennessee to the United States Department of Agriculture's Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities program. This project would reinforce two critical missions of our industry: agricultural sustainability and the pursuit of racial justice.

Funding for this project will create an opportunity for the implementation of climate-smart production practices, create methods for measuring, monitoring, and verifying the carbon capture and greenhouse gas benefits, and develop markets for hemp as a climate-smart commodity by enhancing availability and access to industrial hemp through a sustainable supply chain, from planting to production. It will also help ensure that the industry develops a certification program that will recognize meaningful sustainability practices in hemp growing and consumer products.

Hemp is a key part of diversifying the potential of American agriculture for all. Industrial hemp will increase the resiliency of agricultural production in a changing climate, and it presents a crucial opportunity for developing alternative crops to ensure the viability and global competitiveness of American agriculture in the present and into the future. Critically, as well, this project helps address racial inequities, and empowers farmers of color, minority-owned enterprises and other disadvantaged communities in the promotion of agricultural sustainability.

We encourage USDA to give this proposal its full consideration and approval.

Sincerely,

Ancient Nutrition	Hemptsi	Texas Hemp Coalition
Balanced Health Botanicals	Indigenous Production Trade Alliance	U.S. Hemp Authority
Botanacor	Jades Elevation	U.S. Hemp Building Association
CBDistillery	M&C Communications	U.S. Hemp Roundtable
Cronos Group	Midwest Hemp Council	Virginia Hemp Coalition
Cultivated CBD	Nusachi	Veterinary Cannabis Society
EVG Extracts	Realm of Caring	We Are For Better Alternatives (WAFBA)
Friends of Hemp	Red Mesa Science and Refinery	World Hemp Alliance
Hemp Industries Association		