

## ENDORSED BY INDUSTRY LEADERS



When Congress passed the 2018 Farm Bill, it explicitly legalized the sale of hemp and its derivatives such as CBD. Farmers across the nation relied on this government action, and invested considerable time and resources to plant, grow, and market commercial hemp crops, and particularly for the market for which there is immediate processing infrastructure and consumer demand: hemp-derived CBD and cannabinoids.

Unfortunately, **regulatory uncertainty** regarding the legality of hemp-derived CBD has started to dismantle the up-and-coming market, limiting demand from the manufacturing sector, and resulting in a sharp decline in hemp prices and economic hardship for hemp farmers. While FDA has recognized the significant public interest in CBD, and scientific studies have consistently demonstrated its strong safety profile—including a recent study reporting that CBD products are not associated with liver toxicity—the agency has not yet established a legal pathway for its sale, claiming the law puts the agency “**in a stalemate position.**”

At the same time, a multitude of products continue to be sold under the guise of the hemp name, some of which raise significant **quality, safety, intoxication, and other consumer protection concerns**, since FDA is not, for the most part, ensuring these products’ compliance with the federal regulations that apply to dietary supplements.

**S. 1698** would ensure that hemp-derived CBD, and other non-intoxicating hemp ingredients, could be lawfully marketed as dietary supplements. This would also require CBD products and hemp extract product manufacturers to comply with the entire existing comprehensive regulatory framework for dietary supplements, which ensures that the products are deemed safe, properly labeled and prepared utilizing Good Manufacturing Practices.

Failing to establish a regulatory pathway for legalizing hemp-derived CBD will continue to reduce economic opportunity for U.S. hemp farmers and deny consumers access to safe, quality products. S. 1698 would **help stabilize the hemp markets**, open up a promising economic opportunity for U.S. agriculture and honor the commitment made to growers in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Once FDA does legally recognize and regulate CBD products, the hemp industry can provide a needed financial jolt to a nation emerging through economic recovery. Regulatory relief for the hemp-derived CBD industry constitutes an **economic stimulus package for the nation’s farmers** and small businesses without requiring one dime from the American taxpayer. Independent surveys predict that with a regulatory pathway, sales of CBD products would grow from approximately \$1.2 billion in 2019 to anywhere from \$10.3 billion to \$16.8 billion market by 2025.

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