

ENDORSED BY INDUSTRY LEADERS AND CONSUMER GROUPS



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, federal regulatory uncertainty regarding hemp-derived CBD has severely impacted the hemp market, with reduced manufacturing demand resulting in a **more than 90% commodity price decline**, crushing opportunities for U.S. farmers. And while scientific research has demonstrated CBD's strong safety profile – including a 2021 study that addresses concerns about liver toxicity in typical CBD products – FDA has indicated that it will not, on its own, establish a legal pathway for its sale, claiming that current law puts the agency “in a stalemate position.”

The pressing consumer health and safety problem, indeed, is a product of FDA's inaction. Unregulated products being deceptively marketed as hemp or CBD continue to proliferate, some of which raise significant **quality, safety and other consumer protection concerns**. Worse, the commodity price collapse has led some to chemically convert surplus hemp CBD biomass into intoxicating products, such as Delta-8 THC, which are being sold at retail, sometimes to minors. The time for action is now.

H.R. 6134 would ensure that hemp-derived CBD could be lawfully marketed as food and beverage additives. This would also require CBD products and hemp extract product manufacturers to comply with the entire existing comprehensive regulatory framework, 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. H.R. 6134 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.

H.R. 6134

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