

A DECADE IN THE MAKING



- 2012** **January 2012** – Jonathan Miller publishes article in the Huffington Post, arguing for cannabis legalization; Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner James Comer reads it and enlists Miller's help in efforts to legalize hemp in Kentucky.
July 2012 – Miller and four farmers and activists join, ultimately forming the Kentucky Hemp Industry Council (KHIC), aimed at introducing and passing hemp legalization.
- 2013** **April 2013** – SB 50 signed into Kentucky law, legalizing hemp in the Bluegrass State.
September 2013 – Comer and KHIC representatives meet with Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY), plotting path toward federal hemp legalization.
- 2014** **February 2014** – Under McConnell's leadership and that of Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO), 2014 Farm Bill passes with provision to allow states to launch hemp pilot programs.
August 2014 – Comer, assisted by the KHIC, wins a federal court battle with the DEA, allowing hemp seeds to be imported and pilot programs to commence.
- 2015** **2015-2016** – KHIC leads lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill to ensure federal spending bills include riders to prohibit DEA from interfering with state pilot programs.
- 2017** **February 2017** – With dozens of members from across the country, and the fight for federal legalization paramount, KHIC is rebranded as the U.S. Hemp Roundtable (USHR).
August 2017 – Understanding the need to develop high standards and best practices for the industry, USHR works with industry leaders to develop a guidance plan for an independent, self-regulated organization (SRO).
- 2018** **May 2018** – USHR seeds funding for the establishment of the U.S. Hemp Authority (USHA), an independent SRO to administer the guidance plan for industry standards.
December 2018 – After years of lobbying by the USHR, and the leadership of McConnell, 2018 Farm Bill is signed into law with provisions to permanently legalize hemp and hemp products like CBD.
December 2018 – Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announces its opinion that CBD ingestible sales are illegal, but will work toward a regulatory pathway for their sales.
- 2019** **March 2019** – Working with Reps. Ed Perlmutter (D-OR) and Andy Barr (R-KY), USHR helps secure an amendment to the SAFE Banking Act providing a safe harbor for hemp farmers and CBD businesses.
May 2019 – General Counsel, Jonathan Miller, testifies at the FDA's first public hearing on hemp-derived CBD.
August 2019 – Collected data for the development of a federal multi-peril crop insurance program for hemp, providing affordable options to U.S farmers.
October 2019 – USHR Board meets with the USDA to discuss the Interim Final Rule for the U.S. Domestic Hemp Program; USDA adopts most of USHR's proposed recommendations.
- 2020** **July 2020** – Launched its Minority Empowerment Committee (MEC) and adopted an ambitious equity and inclusion framework, designed by the prestigious Annie E. Casey Foundation.
September 2020 – Worked closely with Reps. Kurt Schrader (D-OR) and Morgan Griffith (R-VA) on the introduction of the first House bill to establish a legal and regulatory pathway for the sale of hemp-derived extract products, such as CBD, as dietary supplements.
September 2020 – Led lobbying efforts to ensure hemp farmers were eligible for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP).
October 2020 – New York released hemp regulations reflecting USHR feedback to remove age restrictions on ingestible hemp products and cosmetics.
- 2021** **March 2021** – Worked closely with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services to develop a regulatory pathway for CBD in food and beverages for the state.
May 2021 – Supported the introduction by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) of the first Senate bill which would establish a legal and regulatory pathway for the sale of hemp-derived extract products, such as CBD, as dietary supplements or food and beverage additives.
October 2021 – California passed AB 45 after a three-year effort led by the USHR and local hemp groups to end the state's prohibition on retail sales of CBD products.
- 2022** **February 2022** – Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME) introduced The Hemp Advancement Act of 2022 with strong support and collaboration from USHR.
April 2022 – Hosted a D.C. Fly-In for Board Members to meet with 14 members of Congress and staff.
July 2022 – Vice President and CEO of Kentucky-based Ecofibre, Eric Wang, testified at the first House Agriculture Committee hearing on hemp and CBD.
September 2022 – Hosted a D.C. Fly-In for Members to meet with Congressional leaders and staff, culminating in a private dinner with Sen. McConnell and former Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao.

2023 U.S. HEMP ROUNDTABLE MEMBERSHIP

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