

Hemp Organizations United to Block Existential Threat to Industry:

Promoting Opportunity for Farmers; Protect Consumers and Children Through Regulation, not Prohibition

ENDORSED BY INDUSTRY LEADERS



Over the past six years, U.S. farmers have rebuilt a domestic supply chain of hemp and hemp products under authority of the 2018 Farm Bill. American farmers are supplying the feedstock for the hemp extract market that has surged to \$28.4 billion, creating 328,000 agriculture and retail jobs, with a \$13.2 billion employment impact and \$1.5 billion generated in state tax revenues. ([Whitney Economics](#))

Federal inaction to create uniform quality control standards for hemp products has forced responsible farmers and small business owners to compete against unscrupulous actors who generate headlines by distributing poorly manufactured products that are sometimes inappropriately marketed to children. Individual states (See: [KY](#), [TN](#), [GA](#), [FL](#)) have protected consumers with strong regulatory regimes, but their authority is undermined by threats of federal prohibition.

Rep. Mary Miller (R-IL) added language into the 2024 Farm Bill – which was subsequently inserted by inserted by Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD) into the House Agriculture Appropriation bill -- that purports to crack down on the bad actors in the space. Unfortunately, the language goes much, much farther:

- *It would federally ban all ingestible hemp products with any “quantifiable” level of THC – 90-95% of the hemp product marketplace. This would not only prohibit products that potentially impair, it would ban the vast majority of non-intoxicating CBD products – all of which have trace levels of THC for therapeutic and wellness purposes.*
- *It would ban a promising future domestic animal feed market for American farmers– at a time where research is showing spent biomass is safe for the animal feed supply and as hemp grain feed for laying hens has been recommended for approval by FDA-CVM.*
- *It would wreak havoc in the hemp fiber and grain market: It would destroy the genetic seed stock American farmers have built for the last 6 years by arbitrarily redefining “hemp.”*

This action would break Congress’ promise to U.S. hemp farmers in 2018 and preempt the work being done in states to create regulatory structures for hemp products that address consumer safety concerns: Prohibition would eradicate these protections and shift widespread consumer demand from regulated markets to illicit cartels.

Worse yet, in doing the bidding of a handful of monopolistic marijuana companies who seek to destroy the hemp industry to capture market share, Chairman Harris blatantly broke his subcommittee’s longstanding policy not to legislate through appropriations bills. Legislative language of this magnitude must go through regular order and be heard by the authorizing committees of jurisdiction; not dropped at the last minute in an appropriations bill.

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The hemp industry is united behind an appropriate response to these challenges: robust regulation of hemp products, not misguided prohibition. Dozens of nonprofit organizations in the hemp space support a regulatory approach that includes the follow four pillars:

- Restrict Youth Access – restrict the retail and online sale of human consumable hemp products with any THC to adults 21 and older.
- Increase Quality Control Standards – mandate good manufacturing practices and strict testing requirements provided by independent laboratories to provide accurate identification of product contents.
- Standardize Labeling – empower adult consumers to make informed choices and manufacturers to create uniform labels across individual states
- Standardize Packaging – eliminate “look-a-like” products that can potentially confuse adults and may be attractive to children.



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The industry has stepped forward with self-regulation, via the US Hemp Authority (USHA), which creates and upholds stringent regulatory standards through independent third-party auditing, certifying hemp products. USHA has recently announced plans to create a new certification program for adult cannabinoid products.

Endorsements

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 American Healthy Alternatives Association
 American Herbal Products Association
 Association of Western Hemp Professionals
 California Hemp Council
 Cannabis Beverage Association
 Colorado Hemp Association
 Georgia Hemp Association
 Global Hemp Association
 Hemp Alliance of Tennessee
 Hemp Beverage Alliance
 Hemp Industries Association
 Hemp Industry Trade Association of Arizona

iHemp Michigan
 Indigenous Cannabis Industry Association
 Industrial Hemp Association of Washington
 Kentucky Hemp Association
 Midwest Hemp Council
 National Animal Supplement Council
 National Cannabis Industry Association
 National Hemp Growers Association
 National Industrial Hemp Council
 Native Health Matters
 North Carolina Cannabis Business Commission

South Dakota Industrial Hemp Association
 Spartan Sword
 Texas Hemp Coalition
 Texas Hemp Growers Association
 U.S. Hemp Authority
 U.S. Hemp Building Association
 U.S. Hemp Roundtable
 U.S. Hemp Sustainability Foundation
 Veterinary Cannabis Society
 Virginia Hemp Coalition
 Vote Hemp
 We Are For Better Alternatives