

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 26, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker,

We write to express our strong opposition to Section 759 of H.R. 4121 and Section 782 of S. 2256 - Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026 (FY26 Agriculture-FDA Appropriations Bill).

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) expanded the definition of hemp and established a successful framework for the hemp industry. Under the 2018 Farm Bill language, the hemp industry supports 320,000 American jobs, generates \$28.4 billion in regulated market activity, and produces some \$1.5 billion in state tax revenue.<sup>1</sup> If the language contained in the FY26 Agriculture-FDA Appropriations Bill were to become law, it would deal a fatal blow to American farmers supplying the regulated hemp industry and small businesses, and jeopardize tens of billions of dollars in economic activity around the country. In fact, over 70% of hemp acreage remains dedicated to cannabinoid production according to the latest USDA National Hemp Report published in April 2025<sup>2</sup>.

Additionally, there are serious procedural concerns with how the language ended up in these bills. This language has not been considered in a markup or hearing by any relevant authorizing committee and there was no public forum for members to express concerns with this language and preferred alternative legislation more appropriate for the relevant authorizing committees. The inclusion of this language in the FY26 Agriculture-FDA Appropriations Bill clearly violates the prohibition in clause 2(b) of rule XXI of the rules of the House of Representatives, which provides that “a provision changing existing law may not be reported in a general appropriation bill.”<sup>3</sup>

Perhaps most concerning is the characterization by proponents of this language that the bill will not negatively impact the industrial hemp industry. On the contrary, it eliminates the existing and future development of dual cultivars used by farmers to produce grain and cannabinoids or fiber and cannabinoids. These genetic advances are critical to maximizing the economic value of a single crop, giving farmers the flexibility to respond to shifting market demands and improve overall profitability. In short, the inherent interconnectedness of the grain, fiber and cannabinoid markets means the long-term success of American hemp farmers depends on the continued viability of all three markets. The hemp industry is not a collection of competing sectors, but an interconnected ecosystem where growth in one segment supports opportunity and innovation across the whole.

Instead of pursuing this damaging appropriations rider, there is a better path forward for Congress to consider. The hemp industry remains united behind a framework that: (1) restricts the sale and possession of hemp products to adults 21 years and older, (2) standardizes packaging to eliminate “look-a-like” products that are

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<sup>1</sup> <https://whitneyeconomics.com/report/2023-us-national-cannabinoid-report>

<sup>2</sup> <https://downloads.usda.library.cornell.edu/usda-esmis/files/gf06h2430/ww72d7715/4f16f032g/hempan25.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://rules.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-rules.house.gov/files/documents/118/Additional%20Items/118-House-Rules-Clerk-v2.pdf>

appealing to children; (3) standardizes labeling to empower adult consumers to make informed choices; and (4) requires independent third-party laboratory tests for consumable hemp products. Legislation to this effect has already been introduced in the Senate and the House Energy and Commerce Committee is actively discussing draft language along these same lines.

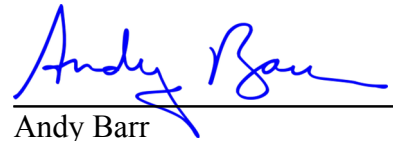
By arbitrarily changing the definition of legal hemp rather than responsibly regulating the market, Congress is effectively turning out the lights on America's legal hemp farmers and undermining the work being done by our colleagues in the authorizing committees and in states that have created regulatory frameworks for hemp products. For these reasons, we strongly urge leadership to remove this language from the FY26 Ag-FDA Appropriations bill and any final FY26 appropriations bill. We will continue to stand up for American hemp farmers and small businesses and oppose efforts to include this language in any bill.

Sincerely,




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James Comer  
Member of Congress



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Andy Barr  
Member of Congress



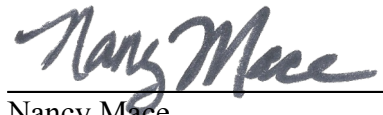
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Morgan McGarvey  
Member of Congress



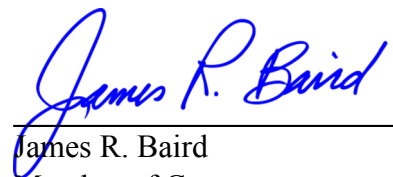
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Thomas Massie  
Member of Congress



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Nancy Mace  
Member of Congress



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James R. Baird  
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Tim Moore  
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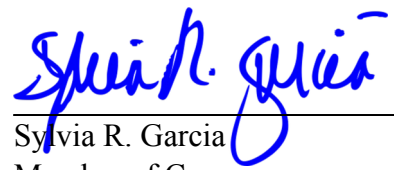


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Member of Congress



Jason Crow  
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Sylvia R. Garcia  
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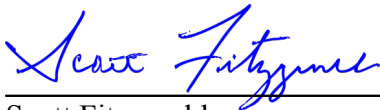
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
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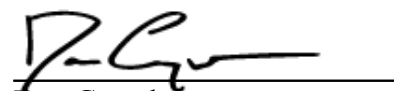
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Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



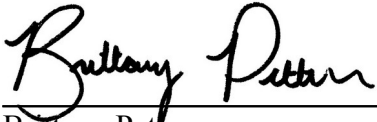
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Member of Congress



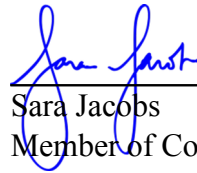
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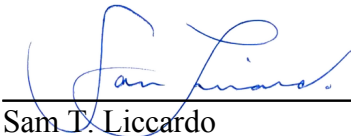
Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen  
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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



Sam T. Liccardo  
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Steve Scalise, House Majority Leader  
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, House Minority Leader