



U.S. Hemp Roundtable

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U.S. Hemp Roundtable Applauds Introduction of the Bipartisan Lawful Hemp Protection Act by Reps. Andy Barr (R-KY) and Angie Craig (D-MN)

New legislation offers a responsible federal regulatory framework as an alternative to a looming federal hemp ban

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Hemp Roundtable today applauded U.S. Reps. Andy Barr (R-KY) and Angie Craig (D-MN) for their introduction of the bipartisan [Lawful Hemp Protection Act](#), comprehensive federal legislation designed to preserve lawful hemp commerce while establishing a long-awaited national regulatory framework for hemp-derived consumer products.

The legislation represents one of the most significant federal hemp policy developments since passage of the 2018 Farm Bill and comes at a critical moment for the industry, as the federal hemp ban language enacted in the fiscal year 2026 agriculture appropriations law (Section 781 of Public Law 119-37) remains scheduled to take effect. The bill would repeal that provision

Rather than prohibiting hemp products outright, the Lawful Hemp Protection Act takes a regulatory approach, establishing a federal framework for labeling, packaging, age restrictions, product standards, cannabinoid oversight, and domestic sourcing requirements, while preserving lawful hemp commerce and recognizing the importance of consumer access to compliant products.

The bill would revise the federal definition of hemp to move away from the unworkable 0.4 mg total THC per container standard currently scheduled to take effect in November. Instead, the legislation directs FDA to establish serving limits through rulemaking and scientific review. If FDA does not act within a year, the bill sets a 5 mg THC serving limit for ingestible products, 50 milligrams per serving for inhalable products, and 50 milligrams per serving for topical products. It also includes provisions addressing synthetic cannabinoids, FDA oversight, labeling requirements, age verification, impaired driving enforcement, hemp-derived beverages, and interstate commerce protections.

"Reps. Andy Barr and Angie Craig deserve tremendous credit for stepping forward with a serious, science-based, and bipartisan solution at exactly the moment the hemp industry needs it most," said Jonathan Miller, General Counsel of the U.S. Hemp Roundtable. "Their leadership on the Lawful Hemp Protection Act reflects a clear-eyed recognition that prohibition is the wrong path, and that American farmers, small businesses, manufacturers, retailers,

and consumers deserve a workable federal framework built on responsible regulation. We are grateful for their willingness to engage stakeholders across the industry throughout the drafting process, and we look forward to continuing to work with them and their colleagues in Congress to advance a long-term federal solution."

Among other things, the Lawful Hemp Protection Act would:

- Create a federal pathway for hemp-derived consumable products to be regulated within a lawful framework;
- Establish federal labeling and packaging requirements;
- Require 21+ labeling and age-verification requirements for hemp-derived consumable products;
- Require that hemp-derived cannabinoid products be derived exclusively from hemp cultivated, processed, finished, packaged, and labeled in the United States;
- Create a federal TTB permitting, registration, and oversight structure for manufacturers of hemp-derived cannabinoid products and wholesalers of hemp-derived beverages;
- Prohibit synthetic and artificially modified cannabinoids and other non-naturally occurring compounds, such as impose a milligram-based excise tax on hemp-derived beverages of 5 cents per milligram of THC, a 5 percent tax on the sale price of other hemp-derived cannabinoid products, and a 5 percent tax on the sales revenue of manufacturers;
- Establish a three-tiered distribution system for hemp-derived beverages, separating manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers;
- Allow hemp-derived cannabinoid products to be covered as a special supplemental benefit under Medicare Advantage;
- Preserve interstate transportation of compliant hemp products; and
- Allow states, territories, and Tribes to continue enacting their own regulations that are more stringent than federal law.

The U.S. Hemp Roundtable continues to advocate for several key policy priorities that have guided its engagement throughout this process, including reasonable, science-based serving limits; strong consumer protections and age restrictions; clear federal regulatory pathways for compliant products; protection against dangerous synthetic cannabinoids; preservation of interstate commerce; and avoidance of overly burdensome taxation or distribution requirements that could unnecessarily harm small businesses and consumers.

While additional refinements and stakeholder discussions remain ongoing, introduction of the Lawful Hemp Protection Act marks a major step toward replacing prohibition with regulation and advancing a long-term federal solution for hemp farmers, businesses, retailers, and consumers.

The U.S. Hemp Roundtable will continue working closely with congressional offices, industry stakeholders, and coalition partners as the legislative process moves forward.

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About the U.S. Hemp Roundtable The U.S. Hemp Roundtable is the hemp industry's premier business advocacy organization, comprised of dozens of leading companies and organizations representing every link of the hemp product supply chain, from seed to sale. The Roundtable is committed to advancing responsible federal and state hemp policy that protects consumers, supports American farmers and businesses, and preserves lawful hemp commerce.

For more information, visit <https://hempsupporter.com>.