

April 11, 2023

Dear Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry and Members of the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture,

As consideration of the 2023 Farm Bill approaches, we write as members of the domestic hemp industry to urge Congress to allow the industry to continue to grow for the benefit of U.S. hemp farmers- who are proudly unsubsidized, companies and employees making finished products from hemp, and the consumers who enjoy and benefit from hemp products, including consumable goods made from cannabidiol (CBD), delta-8, delta-9 and other hemp-derived cannabinoids.

Background.

Hemp, as defined in the 2018 Farm Bill,¹ is the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3% and it can be used to produce a range of products from food to textiles. Plant material that exceeds the 0.3% concentration of delta-9 remains illegal on the federal level. Delta-9, delta-8 and CBD are just a few of the over 100 naturally occurring compounds called “cannabinoids” found in the hemp plant.

Product Standards & Safety.

Although the mixed messaging and rulings across federal agencies have caused great uncertainty for the hemp industry, we are proactively working within the industry to establish best practices and build integrity into this product category. For example, we believe that product standards are the underpinning of product safety and are working with industry stakeholders to adopt stringent product standards in accordance with various state laws and good business and manufacturing practices. Key product standards include: 1) accurate and responsible labeling, 2) the manufacturing of products under safe and sanitary conditions, 3) appropriate and validated testing protocols for raw materials and finished products; 4) appropriate child-resistant product packaging, 5) a clean – and domestic – supply chain, and 6) an appropriate post-market surveillance protocol.

Market Potential.

The enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill prompted tremendous excitement in the farming community as farmers now had a new cash crop available to them. This excitement endures despite the regulatory chaos. Market data estimates predict CBD products to be a \$47B market by 2028 with delta-8 products currently valued at \$20B. Additionally, the hemp industry is comprised almost entirely of small businesses, many of which are owned by veterans, women, and people from marginalized communities.

¹ Domestic hemp production was fully legalized under the 2018 U.S. Farm Bill, *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018*, Public Law 115-334 (Dec.2018). Prior to 2018, hemp and hemp-containing products could be imported into the U.S. or manufactured into finished goods that would ultimately enter the U.S. market; however, the crop itself could not be domestically grown (sans a limited 2014 pilot program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and prior to the 1930s).

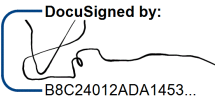
2023 Farm Bill.

We are not requesting any aid or relief in the Farm Bill; we simply ask that Congress do no harm to the domestic hemp industry. We ask that Congress not foreclose any end markets for hemp farmers by changing the definition of hemp or by singling out specific cannabinoids for differential treatment under the law. Over the last five years, farmers and small businesses around the country have invested their time and treasure to meet strong consumer demand for innovative consumer facing products based off the current definition of hemp and individual states have worked to fill the policy void left by the inaction of federal agencies. A change now would cause needless disruption to the market.

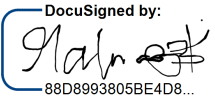
Moving forward, without further or unnecessary hurdles being imposed, we are confident the hemp industry will continue to grow and expand, strengthening our nation's economy, creating jobs, bolstering the domestic agriculture sector, and improving the lives of those who enjoy hemp products.

Sincerely,

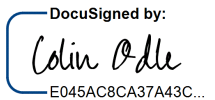
Dylan Marshall
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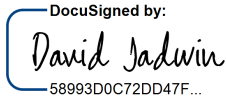
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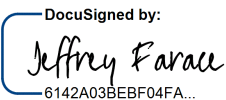
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Chris Powers
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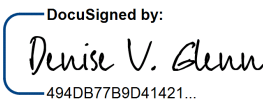
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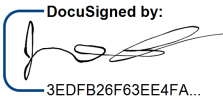
Jeffrey Farace
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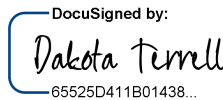
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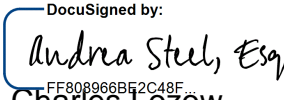
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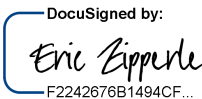
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