

Committee Chairman Rep. Mason, committee members, ladies and gentlemen - Good afternoon.

As a Topeka native I first wish to express my sincere gratitude for your dedication to all citizens of this great state. Education addresses many problems in society, an institution Kansas is historically known for valuing with great intensity. As a graduate of our state's premiere teaching school, Emporia State University, I have learned to embrace the necessity of self-learning. This is why I have taken it upon myself to absorb as much knowledge as possible over the years about society's relationship with one of the most important plants of all time. After journeys to meet dozens of industry experts at conferences like the National Cannabis Summit and CannaGrow Expo, I can confidently say the focus towards progressive and ecologically sustainable practices, economic development in multiple sectors to help rebuild communities, and emphasis given to delivering quality products are all key strong points of HB 2182. So much time and money has been invested in the now 29 legal states, and this bill contains adopted wisdom from other states' lessons in regulation.

I am honored to have the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Rep. Dove's proposed legislation HB 2182. This initiative will give farmers an option to invest in sustainable alternative crops, the ability to produce Kansas sourced goods, and remain innovative in research while also being ecologically and environmentally conscious. U.S. citizens along with the rest of global populations utilize and accept hemp as a crucial production material for a multitude of uses, and it is time our laws reflect this paradigm shift. The vast number of positive benefits to the environment alone are well documented as the use of hemp fibers dates back to 8000 BC in Eastern Europe and Asia.

Much can be said about its history in the United States, but as many already know hemp is a native plant to North America, it was already here when the ships carrying Christopher Columbus arrived. However, it is documented Columbus brought over an enormous amount of hemp seeds to plant and harvest for rope, sails and nutritional sustenance. Like many of our founding fathers, hemp was cultivated throughout the decades and states for paper, textiles and military equipment especially during times of war - that is until the prohibition era began. National sentiments of racial discrimination combined with misguided laws aimed at exclusively benefitting the wood paper and chemical industries failed to differentiate the distinction to the public between hemp compared to its proven medicinal cousin, a variant of the same species Cannabis. In devastating blows to generations of public and environmental health, the government's Federal Bureau of Narcotics somehow was able to outlaw them both through the 1937 Marihuana Tax Act and the Controlled Substance Act of 1970.

The reintegration of cultivating and processing industrial hemp once again in Kansas will help reverse negative trends in soil depletion and erosion, water use, combined with a multitude of economic factors to help improve the state. The time and momentum for this much needed change has never been better. Each year producers are faced with high input costs while pricing trends continue to remain stagnant or decline. Input costs like herbicides, insecticides, fuel, fertilizer, seed, etc. would no longer be of major concern. The agricultural industry growth act will not only mean new and essential raw materials for a variety of farming needs, but also innovative research, jobs in manufacturing and engineering, in addition to protecting our precious

ecosystems. Kansas farmers know hemp requires virtually no herbicides or insecticides decreasing runoff, it requires significantly less water compared to other crops like corn or cotton, and the replenishment of soil with nutrients like nitrogen is imperative for maintaining proper soil biodiversity. The hearty roots of hemp are also known to break up soil better than other crops allowing for increased oxygen which works to balance soil bioavailability. The list of positive attributes continue and are many in number.

The legislation HB 2182 provides solutions to the very urgent need for new revenue, business, and skilled jobs in Kansas. Currently, Kansas research can only be done as studies of other researchers' studies. Our university researchers deserve to take their place at the forefront of this rapidly expanding field. Too many farmers have been denied freedom to grow and reap the rewards from one of the strongest and most versatile plants known to humankind. Kansas needs to takes its place in this market, which is projected to reach \$20-\$40 billion dollars by the year 2020. Kansans should not be left out when other states and countries are developing items like insulation, clothing, fuel, cars and wind turbines made from hemp injections or 3D printed deposits.

Kansas farmers now have the opportunity join multiple industries as an essential contributor. This is our time to adapt to correctly establish effective guidelines of agriculture and industrial hemp for future generations. We have the talented people and systems in place to ensure the reintroduction of hemp is a positive change for our communities, and at the same time demonstrate the Heartland still has the most important priorities in mind. As a representative from the original Free State please strongly consider aligning yourself with the direction of history set forth by our founders to do what is right for the common good in preserving freedom and liberty for all by voting HB 2182 into law that would invest in new opportunities to provide Kansans with much needed, sustainable economic growth.

Respectfully,
Kelly Rippel

References

1. *Hemponomics: Unleashing The Power Of Sustainable Growth Paperback* by Scott Sondles (May 18, 2013)
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3. http://www.naihc.org/hemp_information/content/hemp.mj.html
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A Hemp Timeline In America - Opportunity to Prohibition & Back

<http://rediscoverhemp.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/history-of-hemp-timeline-on-RediscoverHemp-2015-pdf1.pdf>

1762 In the U.S. the state of Virginia rewarded farmers with bounties for hemp culture and manufacture, and imposed penalties upon those who did not produce it. George Washington grew hemp for fibre and recreational use, and Thomas Jefferson acquired the first American patent for his hemp break, a device used to separate the hemp stalk into usable hurds and fiber with greater speed than the retting of past. Without hemp America could not have successfully waged the revolution, and for the next one hundred and fifty years hemp enjoyed the position as America's top cash crop.

1914 The Harrison Act in the U.S. defined use of Marijuana (among other drugs) as a crime.

1933 The U.S. congress repealed the 21st Amendment, ending alcohol prohibition; 4 years later the prohibition of marijuana will be in full effect.

1937 U.S. Congress passed the Marijuana Tax Act which criminalized the drug. In response Dr. William C. Woodward, testifying on behalf of the AMA, told Congress that, "The American Medical Association knows of no evidence that marijuana is a dangerous drug" and warned that a prohibition "loses sight of the fact that future investigation may show that there are substantial medical uses for Cannabis." His comments were ignored by Congress. A part of the testimony for Congress to pass the 1937 act derived from articles in newspapers owned by William Randolph Hearst, who had significant financial interests in the timber industry, which manufactured his newsprint paper.

1941 Cannabis is removed from the U.S. Pharmacopoeia and it's medicinal use is no longer recognized in America.

1942 U.S. scientists working at the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the CIA's wartime predecessor, began to develop a chemical substance that could break down the psychological defenses of enemy spies and POWs. After testing several compounds, the OSS scientists selected a potent extract of marijuana as the best available "truth serum." The cannabis concoction was given the code name TD, meaning Truth Drug. When injected into food or tobacco cigarettes, TD helped loosen the reserve of recalcitrant interrogation subjects.

1957 Hemp is banned in the U.S. due to misconceptions around different types of cannabis plants.

1970 The controlled substance act recognizes hemp as marijuana.

1985 In the U.S. the FDA approves dronabinol, a synthetic THC, for cancer patients.

1988 U.S. DEA administrative law Judge Francis Young finds, after thorough hearings, that marijuana has a clearly established medical use and should be reclassified as a prescriptive drug. **His recommendation is ignored.**

1992 In reaction to a surge of requests from AIDS patients for medical marijuana, the U.S. government closes the Compassionate Use program. That same year the pharmaceutical medication dronabinol is approved for AIDS-wasting syndrome.

1997 The American Office of National Drug Control Policy commissioned the Institute of

Medicine (IOM) to conduct a comprehensive study of the medical efficacy of cannabis therapeutics. The IOM concluded that cannabis is a safe and effective medicine, patients should have access, and the government should expand avenues for research and drug development.

The federal government completely ignored its findings and refused to act on its recommendations.

1997-2001 In direct contradiction to the IOM recommendations, President Clinton, continuing the Reagan and Bush "war on drugs" era, began a campaign to arrest and prosecute medical cannabis patients and their providers in California and elsewhere.

2001 The United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) begins a campaign to make sales of all hemp foods illegal in the U.S. Companies that make hemp products along with the Hemp Industries Association (HIA) take legal action against the DEA.

2004 A three-year battle ensues until February 6. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issues a permanent ruling blocking the DEA regulations and thwarting their unfounded prohibition policy.

2001-2009 Under President G.W. Bush the U.S. federal government intensified its "war on drugs" targeting both patients and doctors across the state of California.

2009 President Obama made steps toward ending the very unsuccessful 20-year "war on drugs" initiated during the Reagan administration by stating that individual drug use is really a public health issue, and should be treated as such. Under his guidance, the U.S. Justice Department announced that federal prosecutors will no longer pursue medical marijuana users and distributors who comply with state laws.

2012 (November) The U.S. states of Washington and Colorado, by voter referendum, pass legislation calling for the recreational-use legalization of cannabis for adults. Hemp production will also be allowed in Colorado.

2014 (February) President Obama legalizes limited hemp farming in the United States. The beginning of the end of Industrial Hemp prohibition in the states.

2017 *A total of 30 states have some form of legalized industrial hemp, medicinal or recreational use of cannabis*