

Representative Mason,

My name is Chris Underwood, I am a resident of Saline County, Kansas and I would like to urge you to take HB 2182 into favorable consideration, which will bring Industrial Hemp to the Kansas agriculture market.

The hemp industry has long proven to be successful in the global market and it is one that we, as Americans, have been excluded from for nearly a century. Bringing hemp back to Kansas, as it was previous to being scheduled a narcotic by the DEA, would propel our agriculture producers to the front of a growing American industry. Comparing Hemp to Marijuana is like comparing a Labrador to a German Shepherd, they are both dogs but they are very different breeds who serve entirely different roles. Industrial Hemp does not contain enough THC to provide the euphoric effects achieved by consuming Marijuana. What Hemp does contain are strong fibers, a rich nutritional value, and soil benefiting characteristics.

The industrial possibilities of Hemp will create new manufacturing jobs right here in Kansas. Hemp fibers can be processed into a multitude of products ranging from fabrics for clothing to insulation for houses and Hemp seed can be refined into different types of oils for both human consumption and bio-fuels. Our labor force will benefit from new facilities built to handle those processes and our farming communities will flourish as the production of Hemp grows to meet the demands of this diverse market. Kansas needs diversity among its current markets and we can not afford to wait any longer. More than 30 states have passed pro Hemp legislation since the Federal Farm Act of 2014 and it is time our legislators do the same.

Respectfully,
Chris Underwood