

Dear Kansas Lawmakers:

My name is Darren Buck. I am a third generation farmer in Southwest Kansas and the Oklahoma Panhandle. My grandfather homesteaded in Baca County Colorado in 1917.

The farmers of Southwest Kansas are facing a desperate situation with the stagnating agriculture economy. With low crop prices and high input prices, new alternative crops such as industrial hemp need to be an option for producers.

Another point that we need to visit is water conservation. Southwest Kansas farmers rely heavily on water from the Ogallala Aquifer. Without this resource, the entire region quickly reverts to 1930's era economy. Kansas's farmers are growing one of the most water intensive crops, corn, because it is really the only crop with a positive return. See Kansas State University extension's website, www.agmanager.info and research the crop budgets by region and by practice.

HB 2182 would allow another viable option for Kansas farmers that will increase farm incomes, stimulate local economies, and conserve water for future generations. This is a win, win, win.

Sincerely,

Darren W. Buck