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TORY MARIE BLEW
112TH DISTRICT

3/15/2023

Proponent Testimony for HB 2168

Chairman Rahjes and members of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to provide proponent testimony for HB 2168, a bill regarding hemp grain, fiber, and regulations. Yesterday you heard from Melissa Nelson Baldwin, co-owner of South Bend Industrial Hemp, on an informational hearing on industrial hemp. When I first reached out to Melissa back in 2019 to learn more about this crop, I was amazed on the hoops their company must go through. This product is a crop. Not a high THC product.

With the help of South Bend Industrial Hemp, in August 2021 I hosted a hemp tour in Great Bend to help educate legislators and other elected officials, and we had roughly 60 attendees! Through this tour we had a chance learn more about industrial hemp, see the actual crop, understand the difference between CBD and industrial hemp, watch the process of how to remove the hurd to get the fiber, and see products made from hemp. All in all, I believe this tour was a huge success and I would gladly host another tour for those who couldn't attend.

With passing HB 2168, this would help regulate this crop just like any other crop grown in Kansas. I understand there are issues regarding industrial hemp on the federal level and understand we have to be careful as a state when dealing with this crop. I support moving forward on this bill and working with the federal government regarding industrial hemp.

Thank you,

Tory Marie