

Chairman Rahjes and Committee Members,

I first want to thank you for your dedication to serving our great state. I also wish to commend you for the ongoing support of our industrial hemp program you made possible, and for holding a hearing on this important piece of legislation. As a lifelong Topekan and appointed member of the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Industrial Hemp Advisory Board since the program's inception, I am truly honored to be assisting in the emerging hemp industry. The proposed legislation before you is a result of identifying fundamental changes industry leaders would like to be considered in the spirit of jump starting our commercial hemp program for struggling farmers. The updates are a few years in the making and are necessary for the following reasons.

Hemp seed itself has numerous nutritional properties, and has been the subject of much research over the last five to ten years. According to the 2021 publication, [A Review of Hemp as Food and Nutritional Supplement](#), "Hemp use in the food and supplement industry is predicted to expand in the coming years as demand grows, with enormous social, economic, and sanitary implications." It was also found in *Hempseed as a nutritional resource: An overview* that, "Recent clinical trials have identified hempseed oil as a functional food, and animal feeding studies demonstrate the long-standing utility of hempseed as an important food resource." Finally it has been [said](#), "Industrial hemp is an exciting alternative in a landscape where we traditionally grow a limited number of crops, where it provides an opportunity to widen our agribiodiversity."

Through an ongoing collaborative partnership with lawmakers and members including Kansas Hemp Consortium and South Bend Industrial Hemp, Planted Association of Kansas believes the commercial hemp program must further encourage participation and expand economic pathways for producers and manufacturers to contribute to emerging supply chains. As a result of continuous data gathering and meetings with stakeholders, Kansas Department of Agriculture and other groups have facilitated discussions around how hemp can best serve Kansas communities. Through these collective efforts Planted Association of Kansas members with input from Morgan Tweet with IND Hemp and Hemp Feed Coalition, identified the area of fiber/grain as a key 2023 state level policy priority. We sincerely extend our gratitude for this work and ongoing support.

The intent behind proposed changes is to encourage participation to improve program sustainability, and so farmers can harness seed/grain for already approved [criteria](#). Towards the goal of removing barriers, license fee decreases have been proposed as well as cost-cutting provisions in testing. As Kansas sits in the Animal Health Corridor where the largest percentage of our world's animal health research and development takes place, livestock and companion animal feed ingredients will gain a major boost through hemp seeds' robust nutritional profiles.

Markets are seeing growing demands for hemp products and more Kansas processors are coming online. Because farmers are now expected to overall produce more with less while diversifying rotations using value-added crops, agricultural hemp is predicted to continue increasing in investment. We hope you join us in looking forward to supporting these changes and we wish to offer any information or insight that may help.

Thank you,
- Kelly Rippel
Co-Founder, Kansans for Hemp
Founding President, Planted Association of Kansas