March 14, 2018

Chairman Hoffman
Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. I support Senate Bill 263 which creates a program to research the uses of industrialized hemp.

For many years now, the Kansas Legislature has introduced numerous bills and discussed the ability to research industrialized hemp. In fact, as a former member of this committee, we had legislation that was passed out of committee and I was to carry that particular bill on the floor when a debate was scheduled. That did not happen.

This year we now have the first substantial bill regarding industrialized hemp pass one legislative chamber. The state of Kansas now has the unique opportunity to research and conduct a pilot program regarding the aspects of industrialized hemp.

I was pleased that one of the counties in my district, which also happens to be my home county, was selected for the pilot program. This bill would authorize a pilot program for the purposes of economic development and market research in Russell county for industrial hemp. Senate Bill 263 is more than research or creating a pilot program for industrial hemp. This bill opens the economic doors for Kansas in stepping toward the future with other product research and development.

As always, if you have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

With regards,

Troy L. Waymaster
State Representative
Kansas House District 109