

Testimony Regarding HB 2244

Senate Agricultural and Resources Committee

Doug Jorgensen, State Fire Marshal

March 17, 2021

I want to thank the committee for the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 2244. The Office of the State Fire Marshal is supportive of HB 2244 and the amendments to K.S.A. 2-3907. Our office has been asked to fill a void in the oversight of the actual processing/extraction process of industrial hemp and we are more than glad to assist the other state agencies that are involved in this process to make it successful.

We feel that our Prevention (fire and life safety) division is a good fit for making sure the processing/extraction operations are safe from fire and explosion. Our Investigations division currently inspects and regulates the state fireworks and explosive industries, with part of those duties being the examining of receipts, bills of lading, and other records. Our office foresees the examination of the hemp processing facilities' records to be a big part of duties of making sure the by-products such as pure THC are accounted for accurately and destroyed properly. Our investigators have full law enforcement authority so they would be able to enforce the requirements of K.S.A. 2-3907 and all the controlled substance statutes of the state.

The control and destruction of the by-products from the processing/extraction process is what is of most concern. The current street price for pure THC or THC acid is \$300 or more a gram. It is in the best interest of the state to make sure those by-products are accounted for and destroyed properly.