

HB2244

Chairman and Members of the committee, My name is Kevin Barone, unfortunately through a series of unfortunate events I am not there today. Kelly Ripple is filling in for me. My testimony would have continued today by asking for support for HB2244.

There have been national alerts from Industrial Hemp groups (Hemp Round Table, HIA, etc) calling for HB2244 to be killed. Those alerts are wrong and those groups have been notified of that, The issue is not with the bill., The Fire Marshall is properly in place to oversee the Hemp Processors in Kansas. Without HB2244 there might not be a industrial hemp program, because there has to be oversight. However the people following me Colby Terlip and Heath Martin can speak to you more directly on the issues.,

Industrial Hemp is a CROP, it is NOT A DRUG. The overregulation of anything involving industrial hemp has to stop. This is an industry that can grow and be very successful for Kansas and the farmers but not if it is continuously treated like a drug and the people involved like drug dealers. The USDA has reviewed and updated the way the crop should be handled. The people that invest millions of dollars in this program will move to Oklahoma or Missouri where industrial hemp is seen as a crop with almost no regulations.

I hope this committee can support HB2244 and can support our industrial hemp program by helping deregulate this crop from the notion that it is somehow a drug. Please listen carefully to what Colby and Heath are talking about, the state of Kansas can not afford to lose any more business, farmers or programs.

Sent from the Desk of
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