

Chairman Kerschen and Senate Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing a hearing on House Bill 2244 and the opportunity to provide testimony for this proposed legislation. I am the CEO of High Plains Nutrition, based in Kansas City, Missouri and we are a founding member of the Hemp Feed Coalition. Several years ago I identified that industrial uses of hemp would be one of the largest and most impactful reintroductions for U.S markets, especially for the American food and animal feed sectors. After years of working in multiple states on research and collaboration with colleagues, some of which serve businesses and universities in Kansas, we were recently awarded a group of patents for pet food derived from hemp seed.

I am excited to say we are also in the process of receiving FDA approval, and now working with the Kansas Departments of Commerce and Agriculture to potentially bring our operations to your state. What this will mean is ultimately a sustainable opportunity requiring hundreds of good-paying jobs while providing a much needed processing and supply chain solution for farmers and the emerging hemp industry. In addition to my input below I also wish to offer any insight or further information that may be necessary throughout the process.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

- Steve McGarrah

We support the passing of HB2244 provided the committee takes into consideration the following recommendations for how statute can be amended to allow and encourage future investments from industry partners. In advising hemp programs in other states the following items have come up:

- Due to necessary capital investment, equipment planning and processing development it is important to lengthen license timeframes to approximately seven years, at the very least for hemp seed/fiber processors.
- Another issue that can be prevented now is lengthening the seed devitalizing provision beyond 10 days due to testing and storage requirements. We recommend at least 20 days.

Based on available toxicological, safety and nutritional evidence (*example below*), outlined here is a necessary change in order for hemp to domestically become a marketable commodity in Kansas statute. This would align with intent behind the expanded state commercial hemp program, and support the work of Kansas Department of Agriculture moving towards matching the federally-active USDA final hemp rule:

- Originally mentioned in the section K.S.A. 2-3908. Unlawful hemp products; penalties; exceptions, Section, F addresses the human and animal food provisions. Source: <https://agriculture.ks.gov/docs/default-source/statutes-ppwc/industrial-hemp-regulations.pdf>
 - Statutes amended to include "hemp" as an allowable ingredient are: K.S.A. 65-636, Kansas food, drug and cosmetic act, and K.S.A. 2-1001 commercial feeding stuffs act.

Additional Resource: <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/news/stories/2019/05/hemp-livestock-feed-kansas-department-agriculture.html>