

KANSAS HERITAGE FARMS

Testimony to Kansas Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

House Bill 2244: An Act Concerning Industrial Hemp

**Sidney Black, President
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Thank you, Chairman Kerschen, Vice Chair Straub, Ranking Minority Member Ware, and members of the committee for your consideration of this bill.

My name is Sidney Black and I am the president of Kansas Heritage Farms. I write this to you in support of HB 2244.

Kansas Heritage Farms is a locally owned father-son operation in Douglas County, and proud to be a part of an emerging and exciting Kansas market. I grew up in Topeka, graduated from KU, and am glad to be growing our business in my home state. After working abroad in the oil and gas industry for many years, my wife Carolyn and I have retired on our farm, which our son, Christopher, has been developing since 2008.

As participants in the Kansas Industrial Hemp Research Program, and now as a commercial grower and processor, Kansas Heritage Farms wants to work in concert with legislative and regulatory entities to secure a nationally competitive role for Kansas hemp products and services.

My son and laboratory manager, Christopher, and I have been fortunate to collaborate with numerous reputable vendors and consultants to establish a safe and competitive commercial hemp extraction processing service, including PodTronix for the physical lab environment, and Delta Separations by Gibraltar Industries for processing technology and standard operating procedures. We have also worked extensively with local utility providers and McElroy's mechanical contractor, of Topeka, to meet appropriate building standards and optimize the design and construction of the facility.

Kansas Heritage Farms utilizes ethanol extraction processing to produce a high-grade hemp distillate (< 0.3% THC) ready for a variety of applications. Extraction is conducted within a C1D1 compliant space using peer-reviewed industry recommended equipment and best practices. Our lab is currently processing plant biomass from our own 2020 crop (about 6 acres, grown from seed), and anticipates increasing operational capacity to offer extraction processing services to other growers.

As hemp processing regulation has moved over to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, Fire Marshal Jorgenson has been informative and helpful- we have confidence the program will continue to evolve in a positive manner and look forward to working together, particularly through an advisory body including processor licensees. There are several sticky points in the current rules and regulations; however, we feel that with continued communication between the OSFM and processors, and upcoming processing facility site visits, these will be remedied in such ways to support industrial hemp as a viable Kansas commodity.

I encourage you to support the commercial industrial hemp program as it advances, and vote in favor of HB 2244. Thank you.