

Dear Rep. Seaton, Rep. Foster and Members of the House Finance Committee:

I urge you to support SB6 to establish a pilot program for industrial hemp production. This is a case where government action can eliminate barriers and unleash entrepreneurial energy without spending new public money.

Thirty other states have laid the groundwork by developing programs on which Alaska's own Division of Agriculture can build. Dozens of farmers across the state are revving their tractor engines in anticipation. A well-designed pilot program for this versatile and valuable crop would create economic opportunity not only for farmers, but for a host of subsidiary processing industries.

Please give industrial hemp the green light -- it's a good idea.

Heidi Chay
Kenai, AK

SB 6 is an important bill that could help offset some of our budget shortfalls. Hemp is a crop that enhances soil; it is sustainable crop and a money maker. Good all around for Alaska.

Please pass this bill into law.

Linda Gorman
Homer, AK

To whom it may concern,

Industrial hemp is an important crop to bring back to U.S. farmers. Currently the U.S. is the leading importer of Canadian hemp for use in food and body care products. Dr. Bronner's, the leading producer of organic and fair trade castile soap in the U.S. imports approximately 22MT of hemp oil annually from Canada for use in our line of body care products. Our company employs nearly 200 staff in our Vista, CA factory, nearly 50 demo representatives around the country, and thousands of organic fair trade farmers through our supply chains. We reported approximately \$109M in 2016 revenues and conservatively project we will do \$110M in 2017 revenue. When viable option exists, Dr. Bronner's will start sourcing hemp oil domestically.

Each year Dr. Bronner's partners with the Hemp Industries Association, Vote Hemp and other leading hemp product manufacturers like Manitoba Harvest, Nature's Path Organic, Nutiva, Pacific Foods, Living Harvest TEMPT, CV Sciences, Farmer Direct Co-op, Tree Free Hemp, Onnit, Real Hemp, Lady Jane Gourmet Seed Co., Evo Hemp, Charollette's Web Hemp, Daily Greens, Good Seed Burger, Colorado Hemp Company, Green Spring Technologies, prAna, among others, in addition to retailers Whole Foods Market, INFRA, and NCG, among others on the Hemp History Week campaign. This public education and marketing campaign has distinguished industrial hemp from drug varieties of hemp while renewing strong support for the Industrial Hemp Farming Act in Washington DC. Since the campaign launched in 2010, we have seen the hemp industry grow from an estimated \$419M in 2010 to \$688M in 2016 – a 64% growth over seven years – making hemp one of the fastest growing categories in the natural marketplace.

After President Obama signed the 2014 Farm Bill including the Legitimacy of Industrial Hemp Research, Section 7606, Hemp History Week has additionally partnered with Universities and Farms growing industrial hemp under state laws to highlight the return of industrial hemp to U.S. soils; these include the University of Kentucky, Rodale Institute, Growing Warriors (KY), Chimney Rock Farms (CO), Salt Creek Hemp Co. (CO), among others. Farmers, institutions and governments have noted the important benefits industrial hemp has to offer agricultural land including natural pest resistance and efficacy in breaking nematode pest cycles, limited water requirements, erosion mitigation, soil remediation, among other benefits.

The climate is ripe for the nascent U.S. hemp industry with a plethora of green technologies on the horizon with hemp currently being used for: graphene in supercapacitors, bio-composite car paneling for major U.S. auto manufacturer's, commercial and residential building materials, bioplastic, nutraceuticals, and more. It is high time all U.S. states involve themselves in the study and cultivation of industrial hemp, selectively breed hemp genetic stock according to bioregional fitness, research and develop hemp processing infrastructure suitable to the regional crops' industrial applications, and incubate locally-based businesses to compete in this growing marketplace.

It is worth noting hemp is most suitably processed within 100 miles from where it is grown, and with the further increasing demand for organic products, Penn State University has noted that "organic clusters", or areas with many organic farms as well as infrastructure to process yields, significantly increases income and decreases poverty in those areas. Therefore, a locally-based agricultural model including hemp farming and the proper support to adapt and invest in existing and novel infrastructure, could be a significant boon to Alaska's rural communities.

Suffice it to say, I'm in full support of SB6. Do not hesitate to contact me should you or any of your colleagues have questions about this testimony.

With best regards,

Nancy Metcalf
Marketing Campaign Manager
760-390-3133

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Family Soapmakers Since 1858
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ALL-ONE!

I am a small business owner in Alaska who owns a dog treat company. We use hemp oil and hemp by-products in our dog treats, along with superfoods. Our customers are finding that the hemp within our products are helping their beloved pets to feel better and their ailments are dissipating more than using FDA regulated prescriptions. Dogs who have seizures are finding that our treats with the hemp in them, are cutting their seizures by half and macular degeneration is improving, along with stamina and vitality. The pets using a hemp by-product or oil are becoming healthier and overcoming their ailments with much less aches and pains.

The hemp industry is vital to our economy, it is highly absorbent for oil spills, clothing is much softer and comfortable, it insulates very well for homes and businesses, it is used in numerous products, such as Dr. Bronners soap, which I have used since the 1970s, and we are now seeing how hemp improves our health in humans and animals.

Hemp is a vital resource for the U.S. and Alaska, it can open many doors for employment, plus countless market opportunities. I think the hemp industry is the answer to our current state's deficit problem. Instead of taking from the citizens of the state, creating opportunities for the citizens is the answer, because the state will benefit from the industry in the long run by giving its citizens freedom to utilize this excellent varied product to boost the economy.

I strongly stand behind SB6 and would like to see the bill move forward for approval so we can implement it and help our state's economy in the future and in a natural, healthy way.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely-

Beth An Moseley, CEO

Alaska Cannivore LLC

Wasilla, Alaska