

Dear Senator Hughes,

What an exciting time to have SB 6 in the Resources committee! We are so pleased that you are continuing this mission to allow Alaskans the freedom to grow Agricultural hemp. Thank you for bringing this important bill up for vote.

There are so many Alaskans who are invested and will benefit from the passing of SB 6.

My husband Chris and I own Denali Hemp Company located North of Willow, and are very passionate about Hemp/Cannabis Sativa L.

We create salves, balms, lotions, oils, butters and soaps using Hemp Seeds and Hemp Seed Oil. We infuse and blend the oils with organically grown or wild crafted herbs, roots and plants. We currently have to out-source the legal hemp seed and hemp seed oil that is incorporated into our products.

In addition to utilizing hemp seed in our handcrafted sundries, we also provide on-going Hemp education to the public via our online sites and also our retail store-front on Main Street in Talkeetna.

For the last several years Denali Hemp Company has received generous sponsorship through "Hemp History Week"(hemp advocates on a national level), allowing us to share a large variety of hemp products and information with the public. The positive response we have received has been very encouraging.

When I first started incorporating hemp seed oil into my products, there were many skeptical customers who were uninformed on the benefits of hemp seed oil. Now, 10 years later the general public is growing more educated and excited about hemp. The main question I'm asked went from "will this get me high?" to "why is growing hemp still illegal in Alaska?"

Chris and I also raise farm livestock on our small acreage, and would love to supplement our animals with greens, fodder and bedding provided by a small crop of hemp. We have been using bedding made of hemp herds which has low dust and high absorption.

There is of course controversy when discussing the growing and harvesting of hemp. We have contact with several mentors in Colorado who help us keep tabs on the industry there, as well as what to strive for in an Alaskan hemp market.

We believe fields of hemp could easily be grown in areas of non-prime agriculture, and also used as a cover crop, and beneficial soil remediation. Farmers in Tennessee are using the same equipment used for tobacco crops to harvest hemp fields. Small patches of hemp are able to be planted, harvested, and processed by hand.

Although Alaska's summer light period does not easily allow for hemp to mature into a flower/seed crop, the products made from the hemp stalk are useful and desired by many. Hoop houses (to allow for light deprivation) planted with strains of hemp for flower and seed are also easily feasible. Many fields of hemp in Colorado and California are monitored with testing to ensure harvest is within legal limits of less than .3% THC.

Hemp that is harvested for the stalks does not need to be mature. This opens up a wide spectrum of uses ranging from animal bedding made from hurd to insulation and building material made from hempcrete.

Hemp seeds have the perfect ratio of Omega 3 and 6 fatty acids for our body and are a wonderful source of protein. Hemp seeds are considered a super food. I personally would like the opportunity to sprout viable hemp seeds to improve the diet of my family along with my chickens, turkeys, pigs, sheep and goats.

We are very optimistic for the prospects of agricultural Cannabis up here in Alaska. There are so many uses for this plant, and so many options for how it is grown. It is just a matter of finding the right strain of hemp for the microclimate it is being grown in.

Ember Haynes

Denali Hemp Company