

From: pacllama <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 10:50 AM
To: Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 27 Hemp

Dear Committee members and Chair Costello,

I had hoped to testify in person on SB 27, but will continue my written testimony with this second letter.

As I mentioned in my previous emailed testimony on 3-5-2021 my husband and I are in our second year as growers in the Alaska Hemp program.

We represent the small acreage farmers whose intent is to incorporate hemp as a sustainable agricultural crop to provide food and nutrition and the overall improvement of our land.

I am contacted regularly by local land owners who would like to grow hemp as a source of feed for their animals or use as a rotating crop or simply green manure, but the current fees and testing requirements make this idea cost prohibitive.

I encourage the passing of SB 27, but hope that consideration will be given to those who are truly growing and processing as an agricultural crop. It would be very helpful if the language of the regulations were broadened to include a license for those who are not manufacturing a CBD or cannabinoid focused product, but do intend for animal and human use or consumption. Traditional methods of growing, utilizing and processing hemp as an ag crop.

There are so many ways that registered growers and processors could be utilizing hemp in all of its growth stages that are not currently allowed (or cost prohibitive), which in turn would cause the hemp industry to grow and include more Alaskans growing and processing hemp.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, as you can see I have many thoughts on the subject.

Ember Haynes

Denali Hemp Company

Talkeetna, Alaska

From: pacllama <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 8:09 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce <Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska Hemp

March 5, 2021

Dear Committee Chair Costello and members, My husband and I are registered Hemp growers in the Alaska hemp program. We are planning for our second year of growing, harvesting and learning with hemp.

Since 2015 when Senator Ellis first brought his hemp bill, I have been an advocate for the small acreage grower to be considered when finalizing hemp regulations.

When treated as an agricultural crop, hemp is a sustainable addition to large farms and niche growers alike. There is way more to hemp than creating a CBD product, and I know more people would be encouraged to participate in the hemp program if there was more consideration given to growing for animal feed and fodder.

I encourage you to regulate hemp in a manner friendly to farmers of all acreage sizes and methods. We grow hemp as a sustainable addition to our regenerative farming practices, to create products and feed our animals. Onerous fees make it difficult for small crop growers like myself and many of my neighbors to achieve our goals. Currently the fees are keeping me from turning my small hemp crop of last year into a marketable product. I have been contacted by several neighbors who have ample space and would like to grow hemp to feed their animals and improve their land, but the testing fees make it difficult to grow hemp in such a manner.

For the last 6 years I have asked for the home grower to be considered in the Alaska hemp program, and sadly those in my position seem to be ignored. The current legislation is geared towards a cannabinoid market product, with very little thought to traditional hemp farming and those who are using traditional methods to create and “manufacture” true hemp products as an agricultural product.

There is room in the Alaska hemp industry for those who want to grow, manufacture and sell on a large scale and those who are looking to incorporate hemp as a beneficial source of feed and protein for their small farm. Imagine if only those in the certified potatoes program were allowed to grow the crop, and home gardeners were unable to grow and use their own potato crop ?

There are Alaskan farmers who would like to use hemp as a rotation crop, cover crop, soil remediator and animal feed; but the testing requirements and fees are too onerous for them to do so.

Thank you for your time,

Ember Haynes

Denali Hemp Company, Talkeetna