



March 6, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is excited by the opportunities provided with the signing of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) by President Trump on December 20, 2018. Specifically, the provisions in the Hemp Farming Act of 2018 which removed hemp and its derivatives from the list of controlled substances, established hemp as a legal agricultural commodity, and authorized the production, consumption, and sale of hemp and hemp-derived products in the United States.

As a state at the forefront of hemp production under the hemp pilot programs, ODA is eagerly awaiting direction from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding requirements for state implementation plans. In the meantime, Oregon is submitting this letter of intent with current statutes and rules attached.

Our hemp registrations are valid for a calendar year; each year we have seen a significant increase in the number of participants and acreage registered in Oregon.

Registration Year	No. of Growers	No. of Handlers	No. Acres
2015	13	13	105
2016	83	66	1,200
2017	246	189	3,000
2018	584	212	11,754
2019 (as of March 5 th)	615	232	~20,278

The passage of the 2018 Farm Bill was clear: interstate transportation of hemp is allowed, once a state's implementation plan has been submitted and approved. With the delay in rules until the 2020 crop year, Oregon's hemp industry is being subjected to unnecessary transportation and commerce restrictions and has examples to provide if needed.

While USDA engages in the rule making process for Section 10113 and 10114 of the 2018 Farm Bill, having additional guidance to allow the flow of hemp in interstate commerce would be critical to farmers in Oregon.

ODA looks forward to continuing our work with the USDA and other federal partners to make hemp a viable industry for farmers in Oregon and across the United States.

Sincerely,



Alexis M. Taylor
Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture

cc: Deputy Secretary Steve Censky, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Under Secretary Greg Ibach, Market and Regulatory Programs, U.S. Department
of Agriculture

Enclosed: Chapter 71 Oregon Laws
Oregon Administrative Rules 603-048: Industrial Hemp