

November 6, 2025



Speaker Mike Johnson
US House of Representatives
521 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries
US House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Majority Leader Steve Scalise
US House of Representatives
266 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Democratic Whip Katherine Clark
US House of Representatives
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Majority Whip Tom Emmer
US House of Representatives
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leaders Scalise and Jeffries, and Representatives Emmer and Clark:

As significant stakeholders in the American hemp industry, we share—and have previously expressed—concerns about bad actors in the hemp marketplace and encouraged the FDA and FTC to act and remove illegal and irresponsibly marketed products. We respectfully disagree with the suggested solution of preempting state regulatory programs by recriminalizing popular hemp products. Instead of prohibition, the hemp industry is united in support of a Four Pillar regulatory framework that balances addressing genuine market concerns with continued market access for American farmers and consumers.

The Four Pillar regulatory framework includes setting uniform packaging, labeling and testing requirements, along with restricting the sale and possession of hemp products to adults 21 years and older. This ensures products are not packaged in a manner that may be attractive to minors, and adults can trust that the contents of the product match the label. In the absence of clear federal regulations required under the 2018 Farm Bill, we applaud the appropriate federal agencies targeting bad actors that no one wants in the marketplace.¹

Individual states have already implemented versions of this framework, including but not limited to Kentucky, Tennessee, Minnesota, Texas, Georgia, and Florida. States are moving to regulate this industry because, as President Trump highlighted in a recent Truth Social repost, these products are improving the quality of life for millions of Americans around the country.² This fact is illustrated in Indiana by Chief Pell with the Whiteriver Township Fire Department who consulted experts to update department policy to allow first responders to

¹ <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2024/07/ftc-fda-send-second-set-cease-desist-letters-companies-selling-products-containing-delta-8-thc> and <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2023/07/ftc-sends-cease-desist-letters-fda-companies-selling-edible-products-containing-delta-8-thc>

² <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/115283887618990920>

consume hemp products containing CBD and THC with great results. “Men and women come up to me and say, ‘Chief, this is one of the best decisions you have ever made.’” said Pell.”³

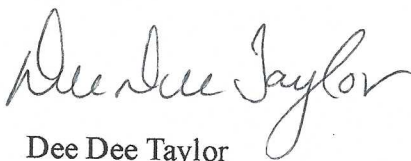
Congressman Morgan Griffith’s (R-VA) discussion draft also incorporates the Four Pillar approach by balancing consumer safety with continued market access. However, more time is needed to gather input from all stakeholders to ensure the introduced version strikes the right balance between promoting innovation, protecting consumers, and strengthening U.S. agricultural competitiveness. The only way to achieve that balance is through regular order through Energy and Commerce Committee consideration, where members can take testimony, gather stakeholder feedback, and improve upon the draft in a transparent and deliberative way.

We strongly urge congressional appropriators to **not include any hemp related authorizing provisions in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies funding measure.** Doing so would bypass needed debate on authorizing committee proposals, deny stakeholders the opportunity to meaningfully engage, and risk creating unintended consequences that could harm both farmers and consumers.

Appropriations leaders have a more constructive path forward at hand. Report language in both chambers rightly calls on the FDA to collaborate with industry and public health stakeholders to develop a science-based regulatory framework—precisely the approach the hemp industry is untied behind and has long urged Congress to pursue. However, proposals to substantially amend the underlying authorization language of the American hemp program within the bill text directly undermines that engagement process. By imposing statutory changes before stakeholder engagement has occurred, Congress risks preempting the very deliberation and evidence-based policymaking it seeks to promote. **Instead of embedding incomplete authorizing provisions into appropriations law, Congress should reconcile the House⁴ and Senate⁵ report language and direct public health officials to engage stakeholders to evaluate scientific best practices and state regulatory models to recommend clear, enforceable consumer safety standards for Congress to enact.**

We are confident that, working together in the proper venues, Congress, regulators, and the hemp industry can deliver a sustainable solution. A pathway exists to foster innovation, expand opportunities for American farmers and entrepreneurs, and ensure consumer trust and safety in the growing hemp marketplace. We stand ready to continue engaging with Congress to help craft that solution.

Sincerely,



Dee Dee Taylor
President
Kentucky Hemp Association

³ <https://fox59.com/indiana-news/fire-department-sparks-conversations-after-allowing-staff-to-use-cbd-products-including-delta-8/>

⁴ House Report 119-172, *Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill*, FY 2026, p. 92 (“Quantifiable Limits Task Force”).

⁵ Senate Report 119-37, *Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill*, FY 2026, p. 155 (“Recommendations on Hemp”).