



June 2026 Newsletter

Standing Together for Kentucky Hemp

As we move closer to the November 12 deadline that threatens the future of hemp-derived products, it is more important than ever that our industry remains informed, engaged, and united. This month, we have exciting news for our Association, important updates from Washington, and a call to action for every hemp supporter.

Welcome Back, Annie Rouse!

We are thrilled to welcome Annie Rouse back to the Kentucky Hemp Association Board of Directors!

Annie was a founding board member and has remained a passionate advocate for hemp and cannabis policy throughout her career. She is the Founder and CEO of Cannabuzz located in Lexington's Distillery District. Since entering the hemp industry in 2009, Annie has worked across grain, fiber, animal feed, and cannabinoid markets, giving her a unique understanding of both market opportunities and policy challenges. Her commitment to building a regulated and normalized hemp industry has helped create opportunities for farmers, entrepreneurs, and consumers alike.

Annie holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics, a Master's Degree in International Environmental Policy, an MBA, and is a U.S. Fulbright Scholar on hemp. In addition to her previous service with the Kentucky Hemp Association, she has served on the boards of the Hemp Industries Association, Hemp Feed Coalition, Friends of Hemp, U.S. Hemp Authority, and U.S. Hemp Roundtable.

Please join us in welcoming Annie back to the Board. We are excited to have her leadership, experience, and vision helping guide the future of Kentucky's hemp industry.

Federal Hemp Legislation Update

The hemp industry suffered a significant setback this month as the House Rules Committee blocked several amendments that would have prevented or delayed the federal recriminalization of hemp-derived THC products scheduled for November.

Among the blocked proposals was Representative Andy Barr's Lawful Hemp Protection Act. Rather than banning hemp-derived cannabinoid products, the proposal sought to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework that would have allowed many hemp products to remain legal while implementing stronger consumer protections.

Key provisions included:

- Clear labeling requirements showing THC content per serving and per package
- Mandatory 21+ age restrictions and age verification for purchases
- Federal safety warnings and consumer protection standards
- Limits on cannabinoid content established by the Department of Health and Human Services
- A 5% user fee on most hemp-derived consumable products to support regulation and enforcement
- A federal tax on hemp beverages based on THC content
- A structured interstate distribution system for hemp beverages
- Enhanced impaired-driving enforcement standards for states

Additionally, proposals from Representatives Russell Fry and Jim Baird to delay implementation of the ban for two years, and Representative Ilhan Omar to delay implementation for one year, were also denied consideration.

The result is that the current federal timeline remains unchanged, leaving the hemp industry facing a November 12 deadline unless Congress takes further action.

While the failure of these amendments is disappointing, it demonstrates the importance of continued advocacy and engagement from businesses, consumers, farmers, and industry supporters.

What Can You Do to Help?

The federal recriminalization deadline for many hemp-derived products is now less than five months away.

This issue affects thousands of businesses, employees, farmers, veterans, seniors, and consumers who rely on hemp products every day. Lawmakers need to hear directly from the people whose lives have been positively impacted by hemp.

Make Your Voice Heard

Whether hemp products have improved your health and wellness, supported your business, helped a family member, or provided economic opportunities in your community, ***your testimonial matters.***

We are asking everyone to visit [HelpSaveHemp.org](https://www.HelpSaveHemp.org) to share their story.

Help Save Hemp is a campaign created by Dee Dee Taylor, President of The Kentucky Hemp Association, and the association's administrative assistant, Beth Pinotti, for advocacy efforts and a place to collect testimonials on how the upcoming hemp ban will affect American lives. On the site under Resources, there is a downloadable sign and call to action cards to hand out to customers. Share the campaign with friends, family, customers, and colleagues to keep people talking about the importance of hemp.

Support the Kentucky Hemp Association

As the critical November 12 deadline is approaching, your support is more important than ever. The Kentucky Hemp Association relies solely on membership dues and donations to fund our advocacy efforts and retain the lobbyists who represent our industry and help ensure our voices are heard by lawmakers.

Renew your Kentucky Hemp Association membership, encourage others to join and if you are able, *please consider making a donation today.* Click the link below to donate online or send checks to The Kentucky Hemp Association, 11609 Dawson Springs Rd., Crofton, KY 42217.

Every contribution—large or small—is greatly appreciated and directly supports our efforts to protect Kentucky's hemp industry.

Donations - We appreciate your generous support! - KYHA

Thank you for your continued support of Kentucky hemp and the businesses, farmers, and consumers who depend on it.