



## Congressional Hearing on Hemp in the Modern World A Missed Opportunity

### Press Release

For immediate release

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**Washington, D.C.** - The House Oversight and Reform Sub Committee on Health and Finance [Hearing titled Hemp in the Modern World](#) focused only on cannabinoid production and missed the opportunity to educate congressional members on the multi-billion-dollar hemp fiber and grain opportunity.

While the significance of discussing FDA regulations in the hearing cannot be denied, it is noteworthy that there was no representative from the FDA present to offer valuable insights from their perspective.

### The Overlooked Potential

“The hearing focused on one segment of the hemp industry, one which only represents 2 percent of the promise of this emerging commodity”, said Geoff Whaling, Chair of the National Hemp Association (NHA), the largest grass roots hemp advocacy in the nation. “All parts of Hemp were federally legalized in the 2018 Farm Bill and since then, the opportunity for American farmers and manufacturers to fully benefit from Industrial Hemp’s (fiber and grain) global \$15 Trillion total addressable market has been overshadowed”.

Morgan Tweet, CEO of IND Hemp, operators of America’s first commercial scale Industrial Hemp Processing Company and Executive Director of Hemp Feed Coalition stated “Our family has worked to bring this opportunity to Montana farmers. We need fair regulations and an understanding by Congressional members that hemp fiber and grain is much different and a far larger opportunity than CBD. While FDA-CVM holds oversight of animal feed; no one took the initiative to present or advocate for this critical barrier to an important market.”

“Industrial Hemp was declared an agricultural commodity in the 2018 Farm Bill but is still being treated as if it is a drug especially when it comes to gaining FDA’s approval of hemp grain as an animal feed. The reality is that had hemp not been prohibited by Congress when 1958 Amendment to the Food and Drug Act, which created the modern approval process for animal feed ingredients was implemented, hemp would have been grandfathered in as an approved ingredient.” said Erica Stark, Executive Director of NHA. “We hope that future hearings will include this important sector of the industry.”

### Addressing Cannabinoid Regulations

NHA has long supported the reasonable regulation of CBD and all cannabinoid products, including the intoxicating cannabinoids that only came to the market after the passage of the 2018 farm bill and the cannabinoids that are yet to be discovered. It has also been apparent to us, even before the passage of the 2018 farm bill, that the existing FDA framework for dietary supplements and food ingredients was not appropriate for cannabinoids. While we support the concept presented at the hearing in terms of having FDA regulations, we disagree with the tactic of blaming FDA for inaction by ignoring the complexities of cannabinoid regulations. Even if FDA could just craft some basic CBD regulations, it is not what will serve the entire industry into the future and would just set the industry up for continued uncertainty and chaos as each new cannabinoid reaches the market.

Proper regulation of hemp derived cannabinoids does have bi-partisan and bi-cameral support, this is the time that congress should engage in meaningful conversations with the FDA and hemp industry stake holders to develop the needed regulatory authorities that FDA needs to regulate cannabinoids in all its forms including supplements, tinctures, topicals and inhalable products. This comprehensive framework will give the industry what it needs to succeed now and into the future. It also prepares the FDA for the eventual legalization of all of cannabis.

As much as we would all like to have had this resolved years ago, we must at the same time be respectful of the important role FDA plays in consumer safety, which allows us to take for granted that the products we purchase are safe if used as directed.

CBD coming into the market through the 2014 Farm Bill, which technically only allowed for research, is the reason the market grew so large before it even became fully legal, and FDA was given jurisdiction. The FDA has expressed a willingness to do their best to meet the industry where it is and create a pathway for fully legal cannabinoid products.

To this end Congress has issued a [Request for Information](#) asking questions of industry to help them draft a legislative approach to the regulation of CBD products that prioritizes consumer safety and provides certainty to the U.S. market. They are asking for a written response to the questions in the attached letter by August 18<sup>th</sup>. We encourage all of you to take the time to answer the questions and email your responses to [CBD@mail.house.gov](mailto:CBD@mail.house.gov) and [CBD@help.senate.gov](mailto:CBD@help.senate.gov)

It is evident that the recent congressional hearing missed a valuable opportunity to educate lawmakers about the holistic potential of the hemp industry. By acknowledging the significance of hemp fiber and grain and addressing the nuances of cannabinoid regulations, we can pave the way for a thriving hemp industry in the modern world. It is time to move beyond blame and collaborate towards a comprehensive framework that ensures the legality of cannabinoid products while safeguarding consumer safety. Let's seize this opportunity to shape the future of hemp and unlock its true potential.

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**About the National Hemp Association:**

**NHA** is rooted in the knowledge that hemp can provide a wide range of opportunities, from field to factory, and has a global Total Addressable Market (TAM) of 15 trillion dollars. Hemp has an important role to play in creating a better and more sustainable future and for hemp to reach its potential, we advocate for sensible public policy and regulation. We are also facilitators in building reliable supply chains by seeking out others we can work with to further our mutual objectives as well as connecting people and businesses to help them reach their individual and collective goals.

NHA is a Grass Roots Advocacy organization celebrating our 10th anniversary in 2023!  
[www.nationalhempassociation.org](http://www.nationalhempassociation.org)

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