



NATIONAL HEMP
ASSOCIATION



The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, United States House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader, United States House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Yarmuth
Chair, House Budget Committee
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jason Smith
Ranking Member, House Budget Committee
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

September 3, 2021

Dear Esteemed Leaders:

On behalf of the National Hemp Association's (NHA) Standing Committee of Hemp Organizations (SCOHO), we come respectfully asking to have specific language added to the pending House Budget Reconciliation measure for the benefit of the hemp industry and by association, all Americans. The NHA and the affiliated organizations of SCOHO represent in excess of 90% of licensed hemp farmers today.

Hemp cultivation and processing returned to the U.S. economy in 2014 after eight decades of needless prohibition thanks to the Obama/Biden Administration through the creation of a state administered, USDA authorized hemp pilot program. Having achieved measurable success and overwhelming public approval, Congress reestablished hemp as a permanent, agricultural commodity via the 2018 Farm Bill. The stimulus requested herein is a measure which will allow Secretary Vilsack to empower hemp farmers, processors, and related businesses to compete globally, sequester unprecedented amounts of carbon, remediate contaminated soil and water, provide funding and jobs to traditionally disadvantaged members of the farming community, and much more.

The requested language is as follows:

“For an additional amount for “Hemp Infrastructure, Research and Promotion”, \$1,000,000,000: provided, that USDA is to distribute the funds, within 12 months, through state departments of agriculture, tribal governments and U.S. territorial departments of agriculture: provided further, that \$100,000,000 shall be awarded to 4 regional super sites, of which the locations will be in Oregon, Michigan, New York, and Florida: provided further, that awarding of these sites will be to non-profit organizations that are able to recruit land grant universities, local governments, state governments, and industry partners: provided further, that 20% of the remaining \$600,000,000.00 be issued by USDA to registered farms qualifying under the historically underserved funding programs of the NRC. These funds do not require matching and are limited to \$150,000.00 per fiscal year for the purchase of equipment and infrastructure, until the fund is exhausted: provided further, that the remaining \$600,000,000 shall be divided according to hemp farm acreage calculations based on self-reporting to USDA with an average number for states, tribal governments and U.S. territories planting multiple years, with a designated amount allocated for those jurisdictions in their first year of production or with minimal previous acreage: provided further, that 10% of funds shall be distributed to the states, tribal and U.S. territories, of which \$60,000,000 shall be available for education, enforcement, and regulation of the hemp industry by state departments of agriculture, tribal or U.S. territory governments: provided further, that the states, tribal governments and U.S. territories develop, within 12 months, an RFQ/RFP

for distribution of proceeds to participants, of which shall be corporations, limited liability companies or partnerships, single entity or multiple entity: provided further, that government agencies shall not apply for grant funding: provided further, that 50% matching level shall be consistent with the funds distributed through state departments of agriculture, tribal governments or U.S. territory departments of agriculture, of which \$3,000,000 cap award shall be limited per entity: provided further, that any equipment purchased shall be eligible: provided further, that funds shall apply to agricultural equipment purchasing: provided further, that agricultural equipment shall be defined as any equipment that allows a farmer to harvest or cultivate a hemp plant, a manufacturer to extract, decort, degum, flavor, can, pack, mold, press and/or any other machinery that uses the hemp plant or any derivatives of the hemp plant to create a product or work in progress.”

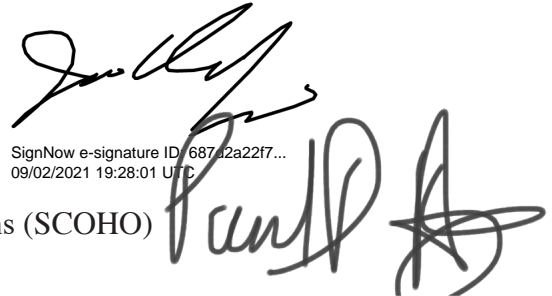
As you consider the budget reconciliation for our nation, we sincerely ask that you consider hemp. Our industry is nascent but can achieve the greatness of other agricultural crops, and perhaps more still, given parallel levels of support to create infrastructure and develop markets. With adequate, specifically applied resources farmers shall possess a level playing field to move the hemp industry to the next level.

Respectfully,
Geoff W. Whaling
Chair, National Hemp Association (NHA)



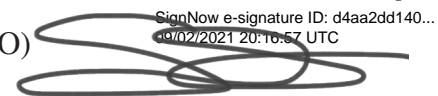
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Joe Kirkpatrick
Chair, NHA Standing Committee of Hemp Organizations (SCOHO)
President, Tennessee Growers Coalition (TGC)
Past President, Hemp Alliance of Tennessee (HAT)



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Paul Higgs
Advisor to the Chair, NHA Standing Committee of Hemp Organizations (SCOHO)



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Samantha Walsh
Vice-Chair, NHA Standing Committee of Hemp Organizations (SCOHO)
Vice-President, Colorado Hemp Association (COHA)



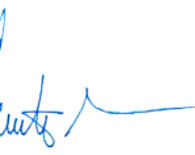
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Jacob Waddell
President, U.S. Hemp Building Association (USHBA)
Secretary/Treasurer, NHA Standing Committee of Hemp Organizations (SCOHO)



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Jeff Greene
Founder/Director of New Business, Florida Hemp Council
Member, NHA Standing Committee of Hemp Organizations (SCOHO)



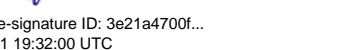
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Courtney Moran, LL.M.
President, Oregon Industrial Hemp Farmers Association (OIHFA)
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Wayne Richman
President, California Hemp Association and California Hemp Foundation
Member, NHA Standing Committee of Hemp Organizations (SCOHO)



Jamie Campbell Petty
Executive Director, Midwest Hemp Council
Member, NHA Standing Committee of Hemp Organizations (SCOHO)

Jamie Campbell Petty
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Frederick Cawthon
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Member, NHA Standing Committee of Hemp Organizations (SCOHO)

Joe Hickey
Founder/Director, Kentucky Hemp Association (KYHA)
Member, NHA Standing Committee of Hemp Organizations (SCOHO)

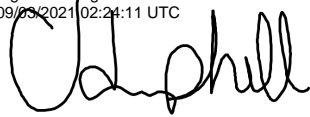


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Marcus Grignon
Project Director, Hempstead Project Heart
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Coleman Hemphill
President, Texas Hemp Industries Association (TXHIA)
Member, NHA Standing Committee of Hemp Organizations (SCOHO)

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Andrew Bish
President, Nebraska Hemp Industries Association (NEHIA)
Director, Colorado Hemp Association (COHA)
Vice-President, Hemp Feed Coalition (HFC)
Member, NHA Standing Committee of Hemp Organizations (SCOHO)

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Erica Stark
Executive Director, National Hemp Association (NHA)

Erica Stark

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