



May 9, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell,

I write on behalf of National Farmers Union's (NFU) nearly 200,000 members nationwide who are engaged in all forms of farming and ranching. Our organization applauds your leadership in addressing restrictions placed on the cultivation of hemp. We greatly appreciate the work that you have done over the last several years at many different junctures, which has provided meaningful progress towards the reintroduction of hemp in the United States.

NFU policy supports congress directing the DEA to reclassify industrial hemp as a non-controlled substance and adopt policy to allow American farmers to grow industrial hemp. As you know, consumer demand continues to increase for a wide range of products made from hemp. Without the ability to cultivate hemp our country relies on hundreds of millions of dollars in imported hemp products, fibers, and seeds, which could otherwise be grown by American producers.

In times of down farm economies, like we find ourselves in now, producers need as many crop options as possible to transition among different commodities to increase farm revenue. Hemp, while not singular in its ability to solve such challenges, provides producers an additional growing option to transition into. As you have witnessed yourself in visits to hemp farms at the University of Kentucky, there are a great deal of benefits that can be derived from this crop starting at the farm gate, through processing, and onto consumers. Capturing those economic gains at each segment of the value chain and within our own borders must happen expeditiously.

To that end, we greatly appreciate the introduction of the Hemp Farming Act (S. 2667). This legislation will begin to provide meaningful opportunities to farmers wishing to cultivate hemp. Please know that NFU is very supportive of your bill.

If I, or any of my staff, can be of any additional assistance to you as you move this issue forward please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Roger Johnson  
President