

Proposal for Industrial Hemp Grain and Fiber Exemption

Cannabinoid Hemp Framework Maintained

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Why are the current regulations problematic for grain and fiber industrial hemp?

- Unreasonable financial burden and risk to farmers
- Unnecessary burden on Departments of Agriculture
- Additional costs hinder industrial hemp's ability to compete with other commodity crops
- Confusion with industries including banking, transportation, insurance, and advertising, discourages investment in critical infrastructure
- End-use products hold long-standing exemption under Controlled Substances Act

What is the solution?

A separation between the definition and regulation of industrial hemp from cannabinoid or floral hemp. These crops are easily differentiated with a visual inspection.

Grain and Fiber Industrial Hemp - Exemption Framework

Field crop grown using standard agricultural practices and the harvested material is ONLY grain and/or fiber.

Maintain the current regulatory framework for cannabinoid hemp production with the following new framework for industrial hemp:

- 2018 Farm Bill licensing with added designation for only grain/fiber production & harvest (including GPS coordinates of land on which hemp is produced)
- Signed declaration that producer will only harvest grain/fiber and will not harvest or sell floral material or extract any resin from crop (Note: full use of hemp seed/grain authorized)
- No background check required
- Required visual inspection (i.e. in-person, virtual, aerial with drones, or unmanned aircraft)
- No sampling or testing for uniform production consistent with designation
- If visual inspection reveals inconsistent crop production with designation, documented verification required (i.e. seed/variety receipts, sales contract, planting report), and the Department of Agriculture reserves the right to require harvest inspection.
- Intentional violations: crop destruction, fine/civil penalty, restricted from program participation for 5 years

Why a grain and fiber exemption and not a universal certified seed exemption?

- Certified seed alone creates an inevitable loophole for illegal cannabis cultivation with no verification of cannabinoid crops
- Existing certified varietals are not performance-tested for every climate zone of the U.S.
- Impedes a free-market approach and encourages monopolies

Courtney N. Moran. LL.M. Chief Legislative Strategist Agricultural Hemp Solutions courtney@agriculturalhempsolutions.com 888-388-4367 Morgan Tweet Chief Operating Officer IND HEMP morgan@indhemp.com 406-622-5680 Erica Stark Executive Director National Hemp Association erica@nationalhempassociation.org 202-706-3911