



NORTH DAKOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360

SENATE AGRICULTURE

EXHIBIT NO. 13

DATE 2-17-09

BILL NO. 5020



Speaker

Representative David Monson
District 10
P.O. Box 8
Osnabrock, ND 58269-0008
dmonson@nd.gov

February 6, 2009

Rep. Bob Bergren
Office of the Speaker of the House
Montana House of Representatives
Capitol Building
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Speaker Bergren:

I am writing to you to offer my support and experience as a long-time legislator and supporter of the legislation of industrial hemp in North Dakota and the United States. I have been working on this issue since 1997 when I heard that Canada had legalized industrial hemp production. The action by Canada left the United States as the only major industrialized country in the world where raising industrial hemp was illegal. I had friends and neighbors in Canada about 25 miles from my farm grossing over \$800 per acre and netting over \$300 per acre raising industrial hemp. Meanwhile, we were in a severe excess moisture area, probably unheard of in Montana, where we were getting 30 to 40 inches of rain each summer. Our small grain crops were being devastated by a disease called fusarium head blight or "scab". We needed alternative crops, and that is how my quest began.

In the past 12 years we have passed numerous bills in ND which have become part of our code. We've passed several resolutions similar to the one I had faxed to you. We have never had a bill defeated in the ND House or Senate. We have great bipartisan support with most bills enjoying an 80-90% support rate. Our Commissioner of Agriculture, Roger Johnson, and I have worked many hours together on this issue including trips to other states to testify in favor of their efforts to do what we have done in ND. We are finally seeing some real progress with VT passing a bill into law last year and about 20 other states now working on the issue. We feel if we can get more states to do what ND and VT have done we should see some action at the federal level.

I currently hold a ND license to raise industrial hemp, but the DEA still claims I need their permit and have refused to give me one to this point. Another farmer, who also holds a ND license, and I are suing the DEA. We are waiting for results from that lawsuit which is in the 8th circuit court of appeals in St. Paul, MN. Our claim is that it is, or should be, a state's right to determine what crops are raised and processed in our state.

I am enclosing a brochure sponsored by the North American Industrial Hemp Council of which I am a board member for you to copy and distribute as you see fit. If I can be of any further assistance feel free to call me at 701-328-3525 directly to my office or 701-328-3526 to Erma, my assistant.

Sincerely,

Rep. David Monson
Speaker of the ND House

DM:efh
Enc.