



January 2, 2020

Bill Richmond, Chief, U.S. Domestic Hemp Production Program
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Stop 0237
Washington, D.C. 20250-0237

Mr. Richmond,

Thank you for your work on the release of the USDA Interim Rule on Establishment of a Domestic Hemp Production Program. Due to the timing of the release of the rule, and the extent the Minnesota Department of Agriculture would need to change to implement a new program, Minnesota requests to remain under the pilot phase for the 2020 growing season. As is included in the formal comments submitted on the rule, Minnesota also requests an extension of the pilot period to December 31, 2020 to provide continuity in hemp regulations for the calendar year.

I look forward to our continued conversations about developing a plan to regulate industrial hemp in Minnesota that works for our hemp farmers, industry leaders, and our state regulators.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Thom Petersen'.

Thom Petersen
Commissioner