

Ms. Conley

My name is Shawn Weber and I am an owner/operator of a licensed hemp company called Crested River in rural southwest Minnesota. We have 5 employees including me. We are a company of three men and two women, and we are all consumers of hemp products and patients of the Minnesota medical cannabis program.

The reason for this message is to convey our support for HF 2996. The hemp industry has been operating in a very gray area for a number of years. And with the two cannabis medical providers ramping up lobbying efforts, the hemp industry is in danger of losing a significant customer base, revenue streams and subsequently the ability to operate. Not passing HF 2996 may very well put us and the rest of the hemp industry out of business. We would be forced to use one of two multi-state operators for our wellness needs which benefits no one in the state of Minnesota, will be more costly, have less access and frankly would be of much lower quality based on the MSO's modus operandi and their track record that has been publicly documented.

I started Crested River to provide safe and affordable access to cannabinoids under the department of agriculture's guidelines. My only concern was the reception we would have in rural Minnesota. Suffice to say we were welcomed with open arms. Many people had a predisposition of cannabis and we were able to educate them and show them the benefits, both from a wellness standpoint but also an agricultural standpoint. Many people have benefited positively in a short period of time from this.

With passage of HF 2996, business owners and employees as well as customers of the Minnesota hemp industry will continue to benefit for years to come.

Kind regards,  
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