



**P.O. BOX 152  
OSAGE, MN 56570  
WWW.WINONASHEMP.COM | WINONASHEMP@GMAIL.COM  
(218) 280-1720**

January 10, 2023

Friends and Minnesotans.

I am writing as Winona's Hemp , a licensed hemp farmer , with state of Minnesota permits and as well a federal permit. I have been farming industrial hemp fiber hemp for the past eight years and grow in Becker and Wadena counties. My primary interest is in building materials, textile materials ( the word canvas comes from cannabis) and hemp as a healing plant in terms of carbon sequestration and bioremediation. I have a long and excellent relationship with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in the development of this plant and am the first Native women hemp farmer in the state, with the longest track record.

I am writing to support the legalization of marijuana. Marijuana should be legalized in Minnesota, so that those who benefit from the plant and the combination of THC and CBD, CBN, CBG and terpenes, may have access to good quality cannabis. This plant has widespread benefits for people of all ages,,and economic backgrounds.

I am particularly interested in insuring that the marijuana industry in Minnesota is from Minnesota and involves a clear development of quality cannabis products, promoting value added enterprises in many of our rural communities. We are interested as well in allowing for individuals to grow their own cannabis, ensuring that the relationship between plant and human is retained, and to allow for access for all, regardless of income. Some states, like Oregon and Oklahoma have provided for individual permits as well, whether for seven or for twelve plants with, perhaps an agreement and support of community supported or subscribing to a farmer for excellent quality cannabis products

As well, I want to clearly state that there should be a set aside number of permits for dispensaries which would be filled by people of color, who have been unfairly targeted historically in the War on Drugs, and in the judicial system.

In my community, as well as many others, the purchase of cannabis products is a very large cost for community members who find cannabis is helpful in addressing a myriad of challenges, including PTSD, historic trauma and other ongoing health and wellness issues. Tribal purchases amount to millions of dollars, at present, which could be served by Native producers and farmers, growing for our own communities and for sale.

Indeed, we have formed the Indigenous Hemp and Cannabis Cooperative to support the development of the Indigenous Cannabis industry nationally, and we see that Minnesota , with a long cooperative history could do well in supporting the actualization of Indigenous cannabis farmers and cooperatives.

I hope that you will legalize marijuana. It will be a good thing for our state and the Anishinaabe people.

Miigwech,

Winona LaDuke