



HELLMUTH  
— & —  
JOHNSON

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February 18, 2022

Minnesota House Agricultural  
Finance and Policy Committee  
Hon. Rep. Mike Sundin  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**VIA EMAIL ONLY**

c/o Nancy Conley  
Committee Administrator - DFL Caucus  
476 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul Minnesota 55155  
nancy.conley@house.mn

Re: House Bill HF2996 – Hemp Derivatives

Dear Rep. Sundin,

I write in regard to House Bill HF2996, a bill authorizing certain food additives derived from industrial hemp, as an attorney who represents hemp businesses, ranging from growers to retailers. To begin, I want to thank Representative Vang for spearheading this bill. This is a significant issues having broad effects on Minnesota's hemp industry.

Allowing hemp derivatives to be treated as a food additive is an important step to ensure Minnesota continues to have a vibrant hemp industry. The popularity of gummies, food products, and drinks containing these additives reflects how the public values these derivatives in edible form. These products are so engrained and popular they will be extremely difficult to exclude from Minnesota's stream of commerce. The better approach would be to recognize these are legal additives so manufacturers and retailers can be regulated for public safety.

Minnesota hemp businesses simply ask for an even playing field when it comes to selling their products. Enforcement of current regulations regarding hemp derivatives in food is not viewed as being evenly or equitably enforced. Current regulations have been enforced sporadically against local small businesses while larger and out-of-state businesses continue to sell such products.

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February 18, 2022

Page 2

As such, out-of-state businesses will continue to sell food and drinks with hemp derivatives regardless of regulations within Minnesota. Failure to bring Minnesota's laws and regulations in line with other states will only facilitate uneven business advantages in favor of out-of-state businesses at the detriment to Minnesota's hemp industry, resulting in a loss of Minnesota jobs, businesses, farms, and tax revenue. Allowing hemp derivatives to be used as food additives will rightfully allow the state to maintain safe practices and continue consumer safety while also encouraging this hemp industry newly created by the state.

Again, I thank Representative Vang and this Committee for your time and energy on such an important issue for Minnesota's hemp industry. I am available should the Committee have any questions or need my services.

Very truly yours,

HELLMUTH & JOHNSON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C.R.M. Moss', written over a horizontal line.

Carol R. M. Moss  
Attorney at Law

CRM/amk