

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 3948

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK

Hearing Date: April 8, 2021 8:00 AM

Travis Dahringer

Self

Houston, TX

I am a Texas resident and fully support this resolution in relation to hemp. As law abiding citizens in 21st century America, we deserve hemp derivative products in their numerous forms. This research and regulation measure will insure safe, accessible products with medicinal value available to the Texas market. The revenue generated, the jobs created, and the freedom to choose legal hemp derivatives is imperative. Expanding on the previous legislation will allow us to expand markets, improve safety and regulatory standards, and bolster innovations that benefit consumers. Be it CBD and hemp-derivative consumables, industrial and commercial products, or other hemp innovations, the citizens of Texas only stand to benefit from such expansion and clarification.

Verlee Fort, Mr.

Self. Marketing Specialist

AUSTIN, TX

I support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration and service.

This prohibition is unjustified in my opinion. Texas is a state that values liberty and personal freedom, and that includes the rights of farmers and businesses and private citizens to utilize hemp-related products.

I've been personally harmed by the hysteria related to hemp related products, meanwhile these products - like CBD and THC - have been shown to be helpful for depression, back pain, glaucoma, and so many other diseases.

Let's have our laws align with how the great majority of Texans feel about hemp and cannabis. Currently, the minority opinion on hemp and cannabis rules the majority. The majority of Texans want legalization, including taxing for the state and regulation on quality. Texans also want to see an end to the War on Drugs, which adversely affects the poor and BIPOC people.

Thank you for your consideration on moving Texas forward with more sensible laws concerning hemp and hopefully, eventually THC.

Christopher Ball

Self

Frisco, TX

Great work towards vertical integration and giving Huge MSO's like Parallel (aka Surterra Wellness(known for moldy weed in Florida)) all the licenses and full domination of Texas's compassionate use program with no competition. Just like the seven license holding MSO's in Florida, who have no competition, and grow MOLDY produce, the black market in Texas will thrive and get even bigger.

Just so we're all clear this bill makes Delta-8 THC illegal. Currently legal across the USA under the 2018 Farm Bill and in almost every vape shop across Texas. Delta-8 is an 'isomer' of Delta-9 THC that has far less psychoactive effects and more medical benefits like helping nausea for cancer patients etc.

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Under your proposed House Bill "Sec.A443.006. MAXIMUM TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL CONTENT. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, a person may not process, manufacture, possess, transport, sell, or purchase a consumable hemp product in this state that: (2) has a total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of more than one percent on a dry weight basis; (b)For purposes of Subsection (a), the total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration includes all isomers, acids, compounds, and other forms of tetrahydrocannabinol and shall be determined without any adjustment for a measurement of uncertainty in a test result."

Since Delta-8 is an isomer of tetrahydrocannabinol any concentration above 1% it will become illegal under these "alterations to language". I guess good job shutting down the only real threat to MSO's like Parallel to come in and dominate any market in the future. Also get ready to raid just about every Vape shop in the state for Delta-8 cartridges. This is a huge step backwards (no surprise it is Texas) and surely being funded and pushed into the house by cannabis MSO lobbyists generous donations...

Kathryn Folger

Self, Retired

Corinth, TX

I support this legislation. Passage will help Texas Business, and more. Thank you for your consideration!

Phillip Moore

self

Balch Springs, TX

I support this act.

Ron Woodard

Self

Frisco, TX

I support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration and service

Troy Pruett

Self

Hurst, TX

I support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration and service!

Mark Yokim

Self

Dallas, TX

I support this bill

Jeff Popp, EMT-P, CCP

Self / Paramedic (disabled)

Crowley, TX

Thank you for considering this bill. I, along with many upstanding citizens of our great state of Texas, are respectfully requesting

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consideration of lifting outdated restrictions on Hemp, Cannabinoids, and products related. Personally, I am a career Critical Care Paramedic currently teaching Pharmacology at the college level. My patient care career ended 18 June 2015. I am now permanently disabled.

My life, along with the lives of my family, drastically changed after suffering an assault by a patient under the influence of the manufactured designer drug "Flakka" (AKA "Bath Salts" or "Zombie drug"). While attempting to care for him he physically attacked me causing permanent damage to my cervical spine requiring complicated surgical intervention and permanent pain management. My 30 year career as a 911 Paramedic ended that day in a matter of minutes. Fortunately I am able to teach on a very part time basis to maintain some income, but having to take Morphine, Oxycodone (now dependant), and various other non-opiate drugs, has done little to ease the pain, meanwhile concerned with the dangerous side effects of opioids. Evidence is overwhelming that Cannabinoids have helped a multitude of folks in similar situations as me. I know of several myself, but honestly I am a proud Texan and do not want to have to move out of my state. I shouldn't have to. I also suffer from acute PTSD (now chronic) from my 25 years as a career Paramedic in Fort Worth, TX. I take certain antidepressant drugs to maintain my sanity, which honestly does little to nothing for the nightmares and anxiety state I seem to stay in for hours regularly. Again, there is overwhelming evidence showing the effectiveness of cannabinoids as a very effective treatment of these conditions. We should not have to rely on dangerous chemicals in attempt to live some kind of productive life.

I hope someone has taken the time to read this and if so, Thank You. I pray you understand my plea, as well as of those like me.

Sincerely,

Jeff Popp EMT-P, CCP

Joseph LA FOLLETTE, CITIZEN

Self

San Benito, TX

The Texas Department of Agriculture historically has been unfair to small farmers. It has sided against us by dictating who can grow hemp and who can't even though small hemp farms produce some of the best organic and sustainably grown hemp flower. In States like Kentucky and Oregon, small farmers are making huge profits and turning around decades of losses to industrial farms. Hemp is also a great crop to use in rotation with cotton and sugar cane. It restores the balance of nutrients and if allowed to stand during the winter, hemp will naturally decay before processing into valuable fiber.

But the main obstacle isn't the short growing season or the hot weather, it's regulations that basically make it a crime to plant a seed in the soil on a small farm. This would be like making chickens illegal. Could you imagine if only huge farms were allowed to raise chickens or pigs? That the meat would have to go to a lab before purchase?

My father fed us off our small farm. We used the money from the sale of eggs and meat to buy clothes for school and when gasoline got really expensive, we were able to trade chickens for some of our neighbors gasoline. I would like to believe that just like mohair and eggs, people with ranch land and farmland could put some hemp on 5 Acres or so and sell it to people who don't want genetically adulterated crops. I know there's a lot of talk about how bad hemp is but it's all lies.

In a state that allows the burning of sugar cane and the use of dangerous paraquat and tree killing dicamba, an inert substance has been criminalized by a racist fundamentalist group guided by white supremacy and not science. Calling beneficial hemp by a Spanish slang name to denigrate it and promote white national racism against small Hispanic farmers. The name in Spanish is cáñamo and not the racist slang term "marijuana." It contains almost no THC. There's nothing there to test.

If small farmers were allowed to grow cannabis, they would be able to take advantage of free enterprise as well as roadside and monthly farmers markets. I would like to imagine a world where I could go to a farmers market and purchase a small bottle organically grown hemp oil that was made in Texas by a deserving Texas family they got to keep all of the money from it to buy Christmas presents or pay for a doctor bill.

But the way the laws are written, it's safer to grow a dangerous crop like sugar cane or an environmentally destructive crop like cotton requiring massive amounts of dangerous chemicals instead allowing Texans to freely grow something that has actual medicinal benefits does not get people "high." And many other states allow small farmers to grow hemp for Market. They don't have to have the DPS with its equally negative attitude towards minorities growing hemp as members of drug cartels, to raid their house as part of the agreement to a license in order to put food on the table.

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We need grants and not licences.

Dustin Krueger

Release: Natural Health Products

Seguin, TX

Regarding Delta 8 THC. This product has literally saved my business. We only purchase products from reputable sources that have been working in the hemp industry for many years. We only sell any and all hemp products to people of the age 21 and older. That being said, the majority of my customers are above the age of 40, with many above the age of 60. Most are using these products, because they find that, when used together with CBD, it helps their pain better than over the counter meds do. Many of these people are trying to stay away from harmful prescription drugs, such as opiates. And I have a few that have actually cut back on these types of medication, or stopped taking them all together. Please do not make these people have to turn back to such awful drugs or medications. Let the responsible adults make what they feel to be the best decision for their health and safety and punish those that would allow access to these products by our youth.

Christopher Grisolia

Advocate

Krum, TX

I oppose this bill because we do not need more criminal offenses where cannabis is concerned. There should be no penalty for a crime that has NO victim. It should have never been a crime in the first place. I lost a son because he refused break the law to try cannabis for his epilepsy when medications made his condition worse, not better. He passed away in 2016. Since then I have learned the reality behind why cannabis was made illegal, and I hold those who made it illegal, and those who continue to disparage it as something bad 100% responsible for his death.

It took me losing a child to open my eyes to the reality of medicinal cannabis. Do NOT be like me!

Janette M Mills, Mrs

Self/ totally permanently disabled

Shamrock, TX

Hello ??

Please vote for hemp production.

It's hard on the soil to grow cotton takes a lot of nutrients which means synthetic fertilizers are being soaked into the ground on a regular basis which is horrible for the ??.

Growing hemp doesn't take a lot of maintenance

Hemp actually helps the ground makes the ground healthier doesn't take fertilizers hemp can be used to make clothing there's so many uses for hemp hemp is been used for making rope for years if all the cotton farmer farmers switch to hemp hemp they would actually make more money I feel they wouldn't have to spend money on fertilizers

I feel Texas should lead the way with hemp production if everybody started switching to camp and cut back on cotton the world would be a lot nicer it would be a lot healthier and Texans would get richer thank you for your time

Artemio Lopez

Veterans Relief Group

Corpus Christi, TX

I support this legislation. As Texas A&M is spearing the lead with their educational hemp program, Texas will soon be the #1 state as hemp producers. Thank you for your time and service.

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Joseph La Follette

Citizen interested in protecting Small Farmers

San Benito, TX

I ask you to please insert language into the farm bill that would protect small farmers and exempt them from testing or licensing as long as the product is either sold after testing online or placed in a farmer's market in small quantities for the home crafting, fodder, cereal, pickles(hemp capers), tinctures and liniments.

Testing belongs in the world of Industry. I firmly believe that testing should be done at the manufacturing level. Too many times places that require testing have destroyed people's cash crops we're having 1% too much THC when it would be far easier to dilute it with a little hemp seed oil during refining.

Do you need a license to transport sugar? It's highly flammable. It's a known cause of diabetes and contributes to many health problems. You should rethink turning people who want to grow and use natural hemp as moonshiners and criminals. This is a big mistake. We have enough laws already. I want to hold every good Republican accountable to their state platform of deregulation and legalization. You made the promise, please deliver. As a voter, I am waiting to be like Kentucky or Oregon.

I thank you for your time.

Kris Bailey

Self

Austin, TX

There is absolutely zero reason to make our drug laws worse when every state around us is loosening them. Please shut this bill down, the only supporters will be law enforcement. Please remove any references to Delta 8 or Delta 10 THC penalties.

Crissy Ellis

Texas normal

Vidor, TX

I support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration and service.

Kathy King

Self

Nederland, TX

Delta 8 THC has shown to provide therapeutic benefits of THC without the psychoactive properties.

I'm physically underweight and when I get ill I drop additional weight. In January I got the Corona virus and lost 8 pounds, as someone who typically only weighs 96 pounds, 8 pounds is significant.

In the past, I was unable to take Delta9 THC as it made me paranoid and very anxious, also at times nauseous which defeated the appetite enhancing benefits touted by many. I have taken other prescription medications such as Magase to stimulate appetite, which are hormone based and prone to cause blood clots.

With Delta 8, I am able to regulate a dose much easier and consistently, I was able to put my weight back on after Covid in about 2 weeks without side effects.

I encourage legislation that places are e restrictions, like those seen with alcohol sales.

Joe Mchaney

Myself

Fort worth, TX

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As you consider regulating hemp remember New Mexico Colorado Oklahoma Arkansas all have legal hemp containing THC for sale to Texans. So it is legal for Texans to travel to purchase in adjoining states why would you go against the wishes of over 70% of the folks that vote for you. Why would a reasonable person like yourselves want to restrict a product that Texans are purchasing and make it illegal in these folks home state. We as Texans should be looking at ways to increase production and sales of this product in our own home state anything else is just plain stupid. We had the same out cry on the lottery it's legal now. Do the right thing and stop the criminal regulation of hemp and this type of restriction we need to have a program like Colorado which has been a good program for their state we deserve the same here.

Matthew Pivalizza, Mr.

Normal

Florence, TX

The regulatory limit of delta9 thc in hemp is too low, even at its maximum limit which is hardly met due to hemp production companies who generally avoid getting close to the limit percentage of fear of discarding their crop&profits from overreaching the limit. Due to thc delta8 full availability in concentrate, users might turn to that causing potential discomfort in the wide difference of amount delta9 vs delta8 consumption. The amounts need to be more even for health benefits not wildly high delta8 and extremely low delta9, as we see in a study abroad of a consumer of potent marijuana in amsterdam vs injected with delta9 thc into bloodstream, where negative results were clearly seen in the injection high concentrate delta9 without any other similar amount of cannabinoids. Likewise studies show cbd works more effectively in concerance with thc. So the low amount of delta9 thc in hemp is not enough since the cbd can often times vastly outweigh something like .03% to 20%. As much as the idea seems to be keep marijuana separate from hemp, natural hemp contains higher amounts of thc delta9 than what is legally allowed (but still lower than marijuana generally). An idea to solve this is simply allowing higher percentage of delta9 in smokable hemp and unregulation of ALL other cannabinoids, since delta9 is really the only cannabinoid in question and the application of all cannabinoids is beneficial to human health. Synthetic extraction if delta9 in liquid form could work in LOW amounts to help even out varying amounts of cannabinoids in different strains of hemp that the user can add to smoke. For example a strain of hemp that contains little to no cannabinoids other than high amounts of cbg could be added a small amount of delta8 & delta9 thc as well as a different strain if hemp that is primarily high in cbd ..in order to get a full spectrum experience while still being much lower delta9 than typical marijuana but just as high In other cannabinoids as typical marijuana strains. The main importance is simply raising delta9 % slightly to even out percentages in regards to other cannabinoids for fuller health benefits (maybe from .03 up to .09%) and complete unregulation of all other cannabinoids AND terpenes for health benefits. As we now know companies tend to stay away from hitting right at the legal delta9 percentage mark, a small raise in delta9 limit will typically be lower than the limit. Any extra delta9 will vastly help the user and actually counter potential health problems from being too low with high amounts of other cannabinoids, and the only way to do this is raise the limit slightly in smokeable hemp and provide a low percentage delta9 liquid extraction that can be added to smokeable hemp. Hemp needs to be regulated less as we have not seen problems so far as is, and further unregulation will also invite more profits for the industry & state. Delta8 might be the only potential problem in high concentrate liquid due to over consumption.

Cameron Hood

Self

Seguin, TX

Hello, I believe puting this bill through to ban hemp products will be devastating to the people of texas me included. The products have helped me and many others through day to day life from my insomnia and anxiety to people pain and medical illnesses that they can't get their hands on treatment for. My anxiety will keep me up and night causing insomnia but hemp products allow me to relax and fall to sleep without waking up tired, which helps me with my day to day life and work without it I would still be struggling to get a good night's rest and lead to a horrible exhausting day just waiting to get home and repeat the process. So from me and many other texans we plead please do not ban the consumption of consumable hemp products.

Thank you

Cameron Hood

Nicholas Gresham

Self/ East Texas Hemp Company LLC

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Elkhart, TX

Hello.

I am a Hemp Business owner as well as a Full Time HVAC technician. I still work full time while my wife and I get our business running to a point where I can justify quitting my full time job.

Further regulations implemented on Hemp/Cannabis will make that goal become a pipe dream.

We shouldn't be moving backwards with cannabis regulations. Making cannabinoids illegal after they were just legalized is moving backwards. It further proves that the legislators have no business making laws around the cannabis plant in general. The fact that you didn't have the foresight to understand that Delta 9 THC isn't the only psychoactive cannabinoid in the plant shows the ignorance of the legislators. I have so many consumers treating their chronic pain successfully with a combination of CBD and Delta 8 it would be a crime to snatch access to this cannabinoid from their hands. I have people that have been taking Ambien for decades take delta 8 one time and be able to replace their Ambien with it.

Our bodies are designed to intake the cannabinoids from the cannabis plant via our endocannabinoid system. These compounds are essential nutrients for the function of our bodies. The best part is they grow in the dirt with the same practices of growing tomatoes. Every American has a right to this plant. It's criminal of the state to keep putting people in jail over this plant.

We need to lift restrictions on ALL cannabinoids. Delta 9 THC included. That cannabinoid causes cancer cells to commit suicide and removes the plaque on the brain that causes Alzheimer's and Dementia. Consumers age 65+ are the fastest growing base in the cannabis industry. States that have adult access to cannabis see a drop in teen use. We need to stop kicking this proverbial can down the road. Over 60% of Texans want regulations on cannabis opened up.

We want,

Adult use 21+

Home grow up to 10 plants.

An affordable licensing to produce for market process.

No % caps on cannabinoids.

No excessive Taxes

No new bureaucratic offices funded by taxes.

Remove THC testing from the pre employment drug screening.

This market shouldn't be handed to the wealthy of this state. They have enough. After the damage Covid caused the families of this state, we need cannabis to lift our Spirits and our banks. The free market should thrive in this state 50x more than any other state in the union.

This is Texas and Texans want to do cannabis bigger just like every other industry that's coined "Everything's bigger in Texas."

Thank you for your time.

-Nicholas Gresham

940-765-8353

1941 ACR 185

Elkhart Tx 75839

John Bush

Brave Botanicals

Austin, TX

I would like to encourage the committee to remove any language that would restrict Texan's access to the Delta 8 and Delta 10 isomers. Since the passage of the hemp bill last sessions, countless Texans have been using D8 and D10 for the purpose of improving their health and their well-being. In this time life has gone on and nothing terrible has happened as a result of Texans being able to access these cannabinoids. In addition to Texas consumers benefiting from D8 and D10, scores and scores of Texas small business owners have earned a living, feeding their families and providing employment for their fellow Texans, based on their sales of these benign isomers. There is no need to eliminate access to these isomers found in the hemp plant.

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Please respect and honor Texan's right to choose what cannabinoids they put in their body.

Please respect the Texas entrepreneurs that have built and grown businesses selling this simple yet effective component of the hemp plant.

Thank you,

John Bush

Romana Harding

Myself and Pine Shadows Farm

Cleveland, TX

This bill is unacceptable!!! It goes away too far and will damage many business's. It will also criminalize a botanical medicine the helps many many people, including disabled veterans like myself.

This takes freedoms away and imposes unnecessary rules, regulations and punitive treatment.

This is a bad bill.

Lee Vernon

Texas Strategic Advisors

LIBERTY HILL, TX

First thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. My name is Lee Vernon. I am a retired Austin firefighter/medic that owns a CBD business specifically for first responders. I just wanted to share the struggles that I face when helping first responders combat the issues we all deal with that come with our careers. I have been able to get relief to so many responders through our line of products which are currently tinctures and capsules and it has literally saved lives. But many simply do not like taking a capsule or the taste of tinctures. Having the ability to offer smokable CBD or other CBD edibles would appeal to so many that need the relief. Currently there is a state of flux or grey pertaining to smokable hemp. Having smokable hemp as an option would allow another means of individuals getting CBD which would enter the blood stream almost immediately. It is one of the fastest ways to consume CBD/hemp versus digestion. When individuals are having panic or anxiety attacks, 30+ minutes is a lifetime versus being able to smoke hemp and get immediate relief. At the same time there are those that do not smoke and would prefer edible options to meet their medical needs. Texas has the opportunity to expand the current CBD/hemp regulations so that options and accessibility can be had by those adults that seek an option other than pharmaceutical drugs which in many cases lead to other problems, some being addiction and suicide. Hemp, CBD, and cannabis is NOT addictive and has shown through scientific studies to bring various therapeutic relief to those that suffer from chronic pain, PTSD, cancer, and a multitude of various illnesses. As a medic, I have seen first hand how quality CBD/hemp has extended first responders careers, lives, and over all physical and mental health. Opioid and alcohol addiction is prevalent within first responders due to mental and physical aspects of the job. I personally have lost friends to suicide and addiction as those are the standard means that we as first responders are given to deal with our issues. While on the other hand I have personally assisted responders with getting off pills, alcohol, and even out of depression/suicide with the simple product called CBD. It is crucial that as a state we offer other additional therapeutic options with hemp and CBD so people can get the relief they need. As a medical professional that has spent the last 2+ years researching and providing hemp/CBD options to actual first responders, I hope you will take positive action in allowing other forms of CBD consumption and make it easier for those that truly need a natural alternative option. Thank you for your time and consideration to help those that truly want to feel better naturally. Respectfully, Lee Vernon

Tyler Prock

"self" accountant

Tyler, TX

I support this bill

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Elias Jackson, Dr.
Vyripharm Enterprises Inc.
Houston, TX

SUPPORT and AMEND HB 3948?

By: Rep. Tracy King

Create Track, Trace and Certifying System for Public Health and Public Safety ?

?_____?

HB 3948 expands on the current hemp law to establish a hemp research program and address ?additional issues related to consumable hemp products.

- The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has established a manufacturing licensing ?program for consumable hemp products and created a registration process for retailers selling ?consumable hemp products containing cannabidiol (CBD). CBD is an Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) and any ?products containing it should be included in a track, trace and certification system. ?
- However, DSHS lacks the tools necessary to monitor consumable hemp products traveling throughout ?the state and lacks the ability to ensure the products sold in retail stores are in compliance with Texas law. ?

Creating a Hemp Track, Trace and Certifying System that tracks, traces, and creates certification ?standards for hemp products will establish safety standards for growers and producers of hemp ?products and protect consumers from unsafe, harmful products. ?

- This system would support the traceability of hemp from agriculture to retail and allow regulators to ?collect information from different data sources within the supply chain in order to create a complete ?picture of the product being monitored. ?
- This system provides state regulators with the tools necessary to easily verify which products come from ?legally-produced hemp and prevent illegal hemp diversion and inversion. ?

The Hemp Track, Trace and Certifying System will promote public health and safety; increase ?regulatory transparency; and provide economic benefits for the state of Texas.
?

- Public Health and Safety: The system would deploy an integrated system for evaluating consumable ?hemp products for public safety, quality control, and quality assurance purposes that allows for ?regulatory certification and labeling of products from agriculture to consumer consumption. This ?validation and certification platform would allow Texas to proactively implement standardization ?requirements to ensure that products are free from factors that could pose compliance and health risks. ?
- Transparency: The system would provide licensed manufactures and other industry stakeholders with ?confidence in a uniform regulatory framework with a clear set of regulatory standards for state approval. ?This will also provide Texas law enforcement regulators oversight and control over “grey market” issues ?which could devalue the industry. ?
- Economic Benefits: This track, trace and certifying system would help address issues related to risk ?mitigation, industry economic stability and tax/fee inconsistencies. ?

For more information contact:

Dr. Elias Jackson, Vyripharm Enterprises Inc. (elias@vyripharmbio.com)?

Paul Trowe, Mr.
Herban Inc.
Round Rock, TX

Dear committee:

I am writing today to tell you how much hemp has saved the lives of people in our state of Texas thanks to the products we sell.

We have helped countless people, who have all shared their personal stories with us, about how Delta-8, one of the cannabinoids

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in the hemp plant, changed their life. Carrie from Bastrop told us that by eating one of our D8 gummies her Crohns disease because it radically reduces her inflammation. Laura shared that she was able to resume a normal lifestyle after being physically assaulted and suffering from PTSD and severe anxiety. Jennifer from Hutto told us how she now has a normal sleep schedule thanks to our D8 tincture she takes at bedtime and is no longer addicted to Xanax or Ambien.

We have hundreds of stories like the ones above. I beg you, on behalf of my business that employs 50 people, customers who pay sales tax on every single item, and our clients who benefit from our D8 products, please don't modify the hemp rules to exclude D8 or put a cap on total THC. This would be moving our great state backward and not forward like the rest of our country.

Please weigh your decision carefully.

Thank you,
-Paul Trowe

Kimberly Phipps-Nichol

self

Houston, TX

While I understand there are expected language changes from the current bill draft, I am definitely in support of expanding THC limits, which honestly, should be even higher allowances than what is proposed. I also am happy to see provisions for research institutions/higher ed schools for studying hemp in TX. We must make it easier and better to cultivate this amazing crop in TX.

Andrea Steel, Esq.

Self; Attorney & Co-Chair of Cannabis Business Law Group at Coats Rose, P.C.

Houston, TX

These comments express my support of HB3948, and offer possible enhancements for consideration.

As background, I'm a partner at Coats Rose, a 30-year-old Texas-based civil litigation and transactional law firm, where I've been a regulatory attorney for over 12 years. I co-chair the Cannabis Business Law Group there, as well as the Legislative Advisement Committee of the International Cannabis Bar Association. While I represent several legal cannabis businesses across the supply chain, my comments are not on behalf of any client, but instead my own observations based on extensive knowledge and experience with federal/state hemp laws and regulations.

After the 2018 Farm Bill passed, Rep. King led the charge in Texas with HB1325 and our State Hemp Program launched, allowing Texas farmers to complete their inaugural growing season last year. However, as a nascent industry, hemp regulations are rapidly evolving. The USDA recently adopted its Final Hemp Rule, making needed revisions to ease farmers' burdens. We now need a few revisions to comport with federal changes and thankfully Rep. King is again leading the way.

I am respectfully requesting 4 modifications be considered:

- 1) Add a clarifying catch-all to Sections 1 and 3 to allow any interim rulemaking necessitated by a change in law to supersede any outdated conflicting statute. This would preemptively overcome any doubt such interim changes are ineffective due to statutory conflict.
- 2) To provide assurances to businesses wanting to operate within the clear boundaries of the law, I suggest a clause be included to allow for rulemaking to protect the extraction process such that material temporarily exceeding THC thresholds is not illegal so long as the material is (i) produced from compliant hemp, (ii) cultivated according to law; (iii) not packaged as a finished product; and (iv) not sold to consumers. This aligns with the intent of the 2018 Farm Bill, pending legislation at the federal level, and laws in a several other states.
- 3) Prevent local interference. Current law blocks local prohibition of hemp, but not interference, leaving localities free to enact zoning or other regulations that could thwart an otherwise authorized enterprise. Texas should not be like California with

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rules different from city to city and untenable over-regulation.

4) Allow for revised sampling procedures as permitted by the USDA Final Rule, which can consider end-use, compliance history, immature plants, microgreens, seed and varieties, research, etc. HB3948 addresses some of these, but the key term “performance-based” sampling procedures to be prescribed by rule should be added, allowing TDA to adjust as needed.

The current and proposed hemp laws are well on their way to supporting Texas’s climb to the top as the Hempire of the U.S., and the requests in these comments serve only to propel momentum just a bit further. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Marcella Tincher

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I am in favor of HB 3948. Please vote yes on this bill. Thank you.

Jaclyn Finkel

Foundation for an Informed Texas

Austin, TX

I am representing myself; the Texas Chapter of NORML, which focuses on policy; and Foundation for an Informed Texas, which focuses on cannabis centric education. We would like to see this bill address the unreasonable prohibition of processing and manufacturing smokeable hemp products that was added in the regulatory process. This is an unreasonable burden and restriction on business in Texas. We have heard about the expected negative impact from many businesses in our communities. We want to make sure that there is common sense oversight over lab testing to help ensure the safety of consumers with accurate certificates of analysis. We hope the language restricting Delta 8 and Delta 10 THC will be removed. Thank you for continuing to work to improve this important agriculture program in Texas.

Erin Mason

Self, Mason Wholesale Greenhouses

Quitman, TX

I support this bill as a hemp farmer, having the total thc raised to 1% will reflect what the federal government is wanting to reach. It will help us farmers to prevent harvesting flower early which will decrease our profits. Having a proper research program will help farmers in having established Texas genetics that have low thc. Consumable hemp products is where the smallest farmer can make a profit growing this product. I support this bill in its entirety and thank you for your service in our legislation process.

Ben Sanchez

Go Green Botanicals, Inc

New Braunfels, TX

I am representing a local dispensary Go Green Botanicals Inc. who has been and will continue to provide to our community through donations and natural alternatives.

Delta 8 THC has been a life saver to many who suffer from Pain, anxiety, sleep and many other conditions without the intoxicating (Paranoia, anxiety and nonfunctional) high that delta 9 gives off. It's an option for folks who aren't able to benefit from delta 9 THC due to its intoxicating effects. Delta 8 thc is the complete opposite with many benefits. The folks who have been provided with delta 8 has their life back and seeing a huge amount of positive results. We have local physicians who are referring to delta 8 thc because they even notice a huge difference in their patients.

Taking away delta 8 thc will put the pain, anxiety and sleepless nights back into the lives of those who are suffering from those conditions.

We have also educated our local law enforcement on delta 8 and delta 10 thc and their benefits, majority have informed us that they are already looking the other way when they come across any for of cannabis including delta 9 thc. They're ready for prohibition to end so they can focus on more serious cases.

Delta 8 and delta 10 thc has also provided a stronger economy and more job positions because of it's high demand. Our sales tax the past few months have also increased dramatically, which is great for the State of Texas!

Closing; I would like to leave off with this, by allowing Delta 8 and delta 10 THC, which is a less intoxicating cannabinoid, will not only provide a better economy for this great state, but also folks with more relief to their suffering conditions. Please consider allowing folks to have access to this amazing cannabinoid. We all need it's powerful healing properties to benefit from. Thank you!

Gina Hogan

Self, nurse

LEWISVILLE, TX

We need to increase the THC dry weight amount to at least 1% so Farmers have better opportunities to grow hemp. It is also important to address the difference between man made synthetic hemp derived products vs products containing natural hemp molecules that have been converted during the finishing process. Such as Delta 8, Delta 10.

Please set limits on the % amounts of Delta 8 allowed in a product without making it a controlled or illegal substance.

Thomas Kagerer

self, law student

Austin, TX

I would like to support HB 3498. I do not support the addition of a criminal penalty.

Ricardo Munoz

Myself & elderly family member. Home Supervisor at San Antonio State Supported Living Center

San Antonio, TX

My grandmother has been using delta 8 edibles to help her easy pain she has left from chemotherapy. It helps her sleep and just have an overall better quality of life. This is a woman who was extremely against drug use of any kind before but would use painkillers that were addictive. After running out of options I finally convinced her to try delta 8 gummies. Her decision was out of desperation. Once she tried them she found the dose that work best for her and now when her pain flairs up she has an effective pain reliever to turn to without has to worry about any side effects.

Serg Salinas, Senior Vice President of Agriculture

Self ; Senior Vice President of Agriculture for Panda Biotech

Dallas, TX

Many of the issues at hand are that until we get differentiation of designation through the state (IE Textile), these are the same guidelines that our industry will fall under. We would like to work together to see if we can have a specific designation for fiber use only. Hemp farmers should not be penalized if their crop tests a little "hot" if their product is not consumable. While it would be great to give a greater allowance on the acceptable THC percentage, with the right genetics that should not be an issue for grain and fiber growers. Giving greater allowances to educational institutions, which this bill does, will help us to achieve this goal. We will not source hemp from unlicensed growers, so do not see much concern for the penalties related to unlicensed growers. Also, the first offense is a warning or \$500 fine so this is no concern to anyone besides repeat offenders.

Katerina Wilhelmi

Self

Austin, TX

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony, as I know that you are very busy. To put it simply, the hemp plant is a highly beneficial one to the state of Texas. By allowing consumers to purchase these items, we are giving them a choice of more regulated, better quality products sold in stores. All, by enacting a ban and imposing fees or criminal offense, they'll buy it from someone off the street who may not be trustworthy. More hemp being sold means a greater bolster to the overall state economy, and you could be helping aid in someone's treatment through use of hemp.

Hemp is not psychoactive. It doesn't get you high. It works with our bodies to alleviate pain or anxiety. Hemp is also a highly renewable resource with a better overall footprint and more uses than we know what to do with.

Adults should have the right to choose what happens with their bodies. Whether that's consuming hemp sublingual, topically, or by smoking, it is their right to choose. Coming from New Hampshire, our state motto is "Live Free or Die." Texans have a right to live free.

Thank you,

Katerina Wilhelmi

Jamie Boren

Self - Executive Liaison for The Hemp Vendor

Austin, TX

Please remove the provision that would ban all Delta 8 and Delta 10 products. This provision would heavily new business and myself - since I legally use those specific products for my PTSD and Anxiety Disorders.

Devon Sharp, Mr.

Hempyre, LLC.

Austin, TX

The overregulation of hemp is an unnecessary burden upon producers such as ourselves and is only impeding the progress needed to create the infrastructure for hemp textiles.

In regards to smokable hemp, Texas citizens as well as its farmers deserve liberty and freedom, not oppression and regulation. Why would Texas deny itself the taxes and its citizens the freedom?

It is unfathomable to me that my lifelong home, the great State of Texas, would debase itself by stripping further liberties from its citizens and farmers. We implore this committee to allow the citizens of Texas to continue living a life of liberty, unmolested from unnecessary legality and overregulation.

Raymond Weaver

Self (retired)

Houston, TX

Please give your full and objective consideration to any and all Bills relating to legalization of marijuana, which would bring an estimated \$1 billion revenue to Texas' sorely needed revenue.

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Thank you

Leah Lakstins

Hemp Business Builder

Austin, TX, TX

Testimony in support of HB 3948

Thank you Representative King and this committee for your efforts in creating an update to Texas' hemp program. My name is Leah Lakstins and I am representing Hemp Business Builder and our thirty seven Texas hemp industry clients. Our company's mission is to create a robust compliant Texas hemp industry by assisting emerging hemp entrepreneurs with mentorship, strategic advice, and verified connections.

I applaud the efforts to ensure labs are ISO/IEC 17025 compliant, the removal of the burdensome GPS coordinates required for manufacturing, and the overall clarity this bill brings to the industry.

Although we support the bill overall, I do have a concern regarding combined THC testing. This presents an issue to manufacturers and retailers who are selling hemp flower containing THC-A (non-psychoactive form of THC) and hemp derived Delta-8 products. These products account for an average of 32% of our client's sales in the last 3 months. The bill as written would cause significant loss in revenue for retailers in the state based on these numbers. Additionally it opens the door for out of state brands to fulfill this consumer demand unless licensing requirements for e-commerce retailers is enforced. I ask the committee to consider that consumer safety regarding these products can be created by proper labeling and packaging regulations instead of completely eliminating them.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Alex Gans

Hempyre LLC

Austin, TX

The unnecessary overregulation of hemp as an agricultural product only stands to diminish the industrial success of hemp textiles and other hemp goods. Hemp will be a \$22 Billion industry by 2022, and will reshape our future. Texas now has the opportunity to dominate this market, please don't let us miss out on making history.

Crystal Bolduc

Self

Little elm, TX

Please don't take this product away in any form. It helped me get off all the anxiety medication and my depression is getting better.

Jessica Rubens

Texas NORML

Spring, TX

Thank you for your time, service and leadership.

In reference to HB 3948's regulation and criminal offenses: If the criminal penalties will be contradicting the decriminalization efforts of smokeable cannabis or hemp then no, our resources should not be spent on purchasing or creating machinery that can test the difference of THC material between smokeable cannabis and hemp. Our counties are back logged enough. Harris County

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have saved up to 30 million dollars from their decriminalization efforts and Diversion program. Montgomery county's Rep. Steve Toth authored HB 99 and us constituents are looking forward to a positive verdict next week. Both of these counties have higher DUI rates than all other counties in Texas. Maybe our resources need to be more focused on statistics of improvement rather than the statistics of criminal incarcerations.

Cities like Dallas and Plano have cite and summons issued by their Chiefs to no longer arrest for minor cannabis amounts. Austin PD is not arresting on probable cause. These are the trends that need to be studied and researched. Regulation in the sense of safety purposes, not criminal please. Again, we thank for your time, service and consideration.

Respectfully,
Jessica Rubens

Yolanda Yvonne Williams, Cannabis Healing Systemic Lupus Survivor in YET LEGAL TEXAS
Cannabis Healing Systemic Lupus Survivor in YET LEGAL TEXAS
MISSOURI CITY, TX

HEAL TEXAS 202, PLEASE !!!

Eddie Gonzalez
Self
Haslet, TX

Hello ,
Ian a disable vet with a diagnosis of PTSD . Delta 8 helps me live a better quality of life . It allows me to be more patient and more focus . Also helps me sleep better at night . I want to follow the law and consume these products legally . Thank you for reading

Melissa Fraley
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I would like to submit my testimony on how this product benefits me. I struggle from anxiety and joint pain. This is the only thing I have found that helps me feel human again. Prescription medication has never helped and left me feeling worse than without.

Maryann Flores
Self
Spring Branch, TX

The products from hemp plant have been effective in my day to day life with joint pain, sleep and anxiety. I have stopped taking tylenol, ibuprofen and prescribed pain medication since using cannabinioids. Please do not end the production of these products.

Yousuf Beg
GC Health
Houston, TX

Many of my customers are finding relief from PTSD pain, migranes and other pain disorders from Delta 8 products. Other customers are able to forego addictive medication and opiates for their pain management, this is a very good product and it will save lives in the long run. These products should be available to the consumer.

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Valecia Vanecek

Self

Trinity, TX

I support consumable hemp products. Thank you for your leadership.

Rachel Innocenti

Self, Graduate student

College Station, TX

The unnecessary overregulation of hemp as an agricultural product only stands to impede the progress necessary for the industrial success of hemp textiles and other hemp goods.