

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Agriculture & Livestock  
For HB 4918

Compiled on: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 3:02 PM

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Hearing Date: March 29, 2023 8:00 AM

Charles Lamping  
Self, civil engineer  
Frisco, TX

I support Texas farmers having the ability to produce and sell their products inside of Texas.

Richard Gutierrez  
self - potential farmer  
Del Rio, TX

I support this bill and wish to see it enacted into law. I have a small farm in Del Rio, Tx and I wanted to try to grow/sell on a 3 acre plot, but due to the uncertainty of existing rules/regulations it's just to risky, especially since my start up costs run to around \$100,000. If I could proceed I would eventually hire 2-3 full time employees. Thank you for my consideration.

Shelley Peebles  
Self - Dental Hygienist and CBD Dispensary Owner  
New Braunfels, TX

I am in support of this bill. We need to protect our farmers as much as possible in order to succeed in the hemp industry in Texas. By allowing the processing of their crops here in Texas rather than sending everything out of state, this bill lowers their costs and helps increase their chances of succeeding. This in turn lowers the cost for the end consumer, which helps everyone. As a dispensary owner and operator, I am able to proudly say that the products we sell are made in Texas, which appeals to consumers here in our state. We are proud of our farmers and want them to be successful in the hemp industry in Texas. Let's help support them, which helps support us all.

Stephaine Daniel  
Self  
Justiceburg, TX

Processing and or manufacturing consumable hemp should be legal everywhere

Marcella Tincher

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I am in support of HB 4918.

Brennan Avants, CW2, US Army, Retired

Self

Boerne, TX

I wholeheartedly support this bill! There has been zero valid arguments given as to WHY smokeable hemp and CBD products can be grown in Texas but not sold in the state. Yet, one can purchase smokeable hemp products at thousands of retail sites in the state from other states- cutting hard working Texas farmers out of what is rapidly becoming the most lucrative market in the world. Archaic policies built on what the whole world now knows was out right lies is holding Texas out of this booming and expanding market for a natural substance with thousands of uses both medicinal and industrial.

Russell Dowden, CEO

Texas Hemp Reporter Magazine / Texas Hemp Show

Round Rock, TX

Our Texas farmers have been successfully growing quality Hemp products in the state of TX for 3 years and the market has yet to blossom into its full growth and potential.

However, simply banning the production of our Texas growers ability to produce a large part of the their inventory is unhealthy for a free and open market. Further, how does it help our fellow Texans if certain business can still order these products for consumption , only now from Out-Of-State manufacturers?

Allow our growers the opportunity to continue to produce and manufacture this form of CBD and the Hemp plant. Clearly, the people of Texas want a smokable form of this plant.

And, everyone knows that if Texas was a ballot measure state , the voters of Texas would have voted in smokable cannabis laws decades ago.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Russell Dowden,

Texas Hemp Reporter

The Texas Hemp Show

Publisher / Host

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Member Texas Hemp Coalition.

Romana Harding

Self, disabled veteran

Cleveland, TX

I do farming here in Texas, and I fully support this bill!

Banning the sale of smokable hemp is Texas makes zero sense since we can still buy it outnof state and have it sent here. Why punish Texas hemp farmers with banning the sale of hemp by Texans???

Loren Simpson  
Self  
Lago Vista, TX

Allow hemp grown in Texas to be sold and used in Texas.

Joshua Martinez  
Houstonians for Responsible Cannabis Reform  
Houston, TX

We SUPPORT this bill and wish to see it enacted into law.

Alan Staton  
Self  
Houston, TX

I support this bill.

Blair Henderson  
Self  
Sugar Land, TX

Dear Members of the Texas Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 4918, which would repeal the language in the 2019 Hemp Bill that prohibits the manufacturing of smokable hemp products in Texas. As a supporter of the hemp industry, I believe that this bill would be a positive step forward for the state's economy and public health.

The prohibition on smokable hemp products in Texas has put a significant burden on hemp farmers and processors. These restrictions have prevented them from accessing a potentially lucrative market and have forced them to dispose of valuable parts of the plant. With the repeal of these restrictions, farmers and processors would be able to produce and sell smokable hemp products, which would provide a much-needed boost to the state's economy.

Furthermore, the use of smokable hemp products has been shown to have numerous health benefits. Many people use these products as a safer alternative to tobacco smoking, which is a leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Smokable hemp has also been used to manage symptoms of anxiety, depression, and chronic pain. By allowing the production and sale of these products, Texans would have access to a safe and effective alternative to harmful tobacco products.

It is important to note that smokable hemp products are already legal in many other states, and their use has not been shown to have any negative public health consequences. In fact, these products have been shown to be a safe and effective alternative to traditional tobacco products.

In conclusion, I urge you to support HB 4918 and repeal the restrictions on smokable hemp products in Texas. This bill would provide a much-needed boost to the state's economy, while also providing Texans with a safe and effective alternative to tobacco products. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Blair Henderson

Zachary Maxwell, President  
Texas Hemp Growers  
Arlington, TX

On behalf of Texas Hemp Growers, the largest association of hemp professionals and cultivators in Texas, we support this bill and the effort to repeal the ban on manufacturing and producing smokable hemp in Texas. This bill would provide considerable economic value for Texas farmers, and encourage processors and manufacturers to come back to Texas.

Maryann Walker, Worker bee

Self/Delivery driver

Bastrop, TX

I vote yes to HB 4918 for the hemp further to save people's lives.

Alan Staton

Self

Houston, TX

I support this bill.

It is supportive of Texas farmers and represents freedoms Texas Citizens want.

Amber York, Child of God

Healthy Herb Farm

Athens, TX

I support this bill. As a Texas widow, Hemp producer and TCUP patient. My preferred method of consumption is smoking it. It works better for my individual system. It's past time to remove restrictions on a God given plant. Do you really trust in God? It's time for change. All consumption methods should be allowed. Thank you. God bless us All.

Jesse Williams

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill. The current law and situation regarding smokable hemp makes no sense right now.

Nina Parker

Self, Hemp Retail Business Owner

Maxwell, TX

I fully support the processing and manufacturing of consumable hemp products for smoking. There are several reasons why I believe this is a positive development for both consumers and the industry as a whole.

Firstly, hemp is a natural plant that has been used for centuries for a variety of purposes, including smoking. By legalizing the cultivation and use of hemp for smoking, we are recognizing the plant's potential as a source of enjoyment and relaxation for individuals who choose to use it.

Secondly, the processing and manufacturing of consumable hemp products for smoking provides an opportunity for entrepreneurs and businesses to thrive in a new and growing industry. This can lead to job creation and economic growth, which is especially important in today's economy.

Thirdly, hemp smoking products have the potential to be a safer alternative to traditional tobacco products, which are known to be highly addictive and detrimental to health. By providing consumers with a natural and non-addictive option, we can potentially reduce the negative health effects associated with smoking.

Finally, by supporting the processing and manufacturing of consumable hemp products for smoking, we are also promoting the legalization of hemp and its potential as a sustainable and versatile crop. Hemp is an environmentally friendly crop that requires less water and pesticides than other crops, making it a more sustainable option for farmers and a more eco-friendly option for consumers.

In conclusion, the processing and manufacturing of consumable hemp products for smoking has the potential to provide a range of benefits to individuals, businesses, and the environment. As such, I fully support this development and believe that it should be embraced by policymakers and the public alike.

Carlos Hernandez  
HoneySuckle Brand, LLC  
Houston, TX

Plainly stated, this ban on processing hemp hurts Texas farmers. If they retail sale of smokable hemp products is legal then why not let it me from Texas farmers? This ban drives retailers like me to source products from other states. That directly effects money coming into the state.

There is no denying the demand for smokable hemp products in the state of Texas. That demand isn't going anywhere. So instead of helping Texas farmers meet this growing demand this ban does the complete opposite.

We implore you to do the right thing and allow Texas farmers to process their crops, meet consumer demand, and make money for their families.