

# Smoky Hill

## Development Corporation

The Honorable Les Mason, Chairman  
Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development Committee  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 112-N  
Topeka, KS 66612

**RE: Support of HB 2182, “Agricultural Growth Act”**

Chairman Mason and Committee Members:

Please accept this as a letter in support of HB 2182, the “Agricultural Growth Act.” The Smoky Hill Development Corporation, the economic development arm of Ellsworth County, feels this legislation will help the agriculture, manufacturing, and processing sectors of our economy throughout the state.

Water is a critical issue throughout the state, region, and nation making our farmers look to diversify their operations. Giving them the ability to grow a product with less water consumption that can be sold not only nationally, but internationally gives Kansas one more revenue stream both rural and urban.

Industrial hemp is not a new concept, but one our state needs to take advantage of moving forward. This legislation allows our farmers to diversify, but also opens doors to many more sectors throughout the state. Who’s going to manufacture the parts needed for cultivation and planting? Who’s going to process the raw plant? Who’s going to do the research on the future potential of the plant? Those questions are easily answered, Kansas businesses and universities.

Giving our state’s businesses options is the key to economic success. Industrial hemp research, growth, processing, and manufacturing is one more option for our state entrepreneurs.

Thank you for your service, time, and consideration of HB 2182. Our goal in the economic development community throughout the state is the same as yours; create new business, jobs, and bolster our population.

Sincerely,



Rob Fillion  
Executive Director