

Feb. 9, 2017

Kansas State Legislature,

My name is Shalee Higgins. My family has farmed in Kansas for many years. I work in the crop insurance industry and live in Morton County, Kansas on a farm.

The passage of Bill HB 2182 in regard to the production of industrial hemp would greatly benefit Morton county and Kansas. The state of Kansas depends on agriculture as the largest economic factor in the state. We need to do everything possible and look at every option to keep farming going strong for the next generations to come. The small towns across Kansas depend on agriculture to keep from closing up shop. I also see industrial hemp as bringing more jobs to Kansas to process the product.

I see in my line of work farmers and ranchers looking for new options every day to cut input cost. I believe that industrial hemp really could be the crop to do that and to help the cash flow worksheets at the bank come out positive again. Industrial hemp uses less water, less pesticides, less fertilizer, less herbicides while still carrying a good market price. The last few years water has really become a topic in Western Kansas as we are seeing the level of water drop but still needing to water the crops to get the yields.

I also see industrial hemp helping the ranchers in Kansas since it is high in fatty acids and oil it would work really well for cattle feed.

We need to give our farmers today a chance to grow something that will bring them a profit and I believe this is the crop! Stop importing it across the borders and use the land of the free to grow it ourselves.

I hope the Kansas State Legislature will pass HB 2182, The Kansas Agricultural Industry Growth Act and help farmers keep passing down their land to generations to come. Knowing that they can raise their families and put food on the table by paying bills with the crops they grow.

Sincerely



Shalee Higgins

Morton County, Kansas