

The Capitol Lobby Group

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Kevin A. Barone

Sen Agriculture and Natural Resources

RE: SB449 Proponent

Chairman Kerschen and Senate Agriculture Committee Members,

Thank you for taking the time for this hearing and allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 449. As many of you know, I am Kevin Barone with Capitol Lobby Group and among other initiatives I have been working on the topic of industrial hemp over the past several years. This is an historical and exciting time, but as programs evolve and transition there is a need for continuous evaluation at the statutory level. This is why SB449 is important.

What this legislation does is align Kansas statute with each other as well as the enacted law at the federal level, specifically language passed in the 2018 Farm Bill. Your constituents may have informed you about this, but currently in Kansas there are issues where individuals are purchasing cannabis-derived products from online or elsewhere that are now legal in all 50 states based on Federal Law. However, Kansas restricts the sale of those products if they contain any hundredth or even tenth of a percentage point over zero of the cannabinoid, delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol or THC. To be clear, federal law allows the sale of 0.3% THC products. Over the past couple years this situation has caused issues ranging from confusion to damaging lawsuits hindering public trust in systems. The situation we have now is not beneficial for legality purposes nor is it encouraging to hardworking people working towards wellbeing and opportunities in their communities, regardless of it being rural or urban.

Regardless of personal opinions on hemp or cannabis-derived products, it is here now and not going anywhere. Regulation is needed that responsibly protects both citizens and the state. In order for Kansas statute to reflect what is now federal law, SB449 is crucial to get passed out and signed into law. We strongly urge a "yes" vote on this legislation as it will have a positive impact on multiple industries moving forward.

Thank you,
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