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House Bill 2168 - Proponent, Oral Testimony  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
March 15, 2023

Chair Rahjes, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share testimony in support of House Bill 2168.

Ask me about my hemp dream and my brain knows exactly what that looks like.

In 2025, springtime, my husband and I will break ground on our dream home, nestled on 18 city acres of future crop land in SE Topeka. When complete, our dream home will be fully insulated and finished with hemp products. It will include as much Kansas grown hemp as possible. Today, my hemp dream is vivid because **House Bill 2168 can move Kansas' agricultural hemp industry forward exponentially this year.**

The Industrial Hemp Program with KDA has seen a steady decrease in farmer participation since the 2018 farm bill. It's now 2023, Kansas has 3 processing facilities capable of processing over 6,000 acres of hemp fiber and grain annually. This year, only 1,600 acres have been contracted for processing. That's less than 30% of capacity. This program should be growing, not withering.

My hemp dream looks like House Bill 2168 passing, significantly reducing barriers for new farmers entering the industry, fully funding KDA's hemp program, and opening up the animal feed market.

- **Reduce licensing fees to increase farmer participation.** \$1,500/yr is extreme and has proven to be a barrier for farmers. \$250/yr may be perceived as the other end of extreme, however, lowering these costs *will* encourage more participation.
- **Fully fund KDA's Hemp Program with sustainable participation.** With KDA, KBI and KS Farm Bureau behind this bill, more participants will fall in line.
- **Open up the animal feed market for poultry, pets and livestock.** Pave the way for the USDA. **Kansas could lead the nation in agricultural hemp grain/seed production.** Investing in sustainable nutrition is our future and simply stated, it's smart economics.

If House Bill 2168 passes this year, Kansas could become the leader in **agricultural hemp** production in two to five years. (Let other states fight over who grows cannabis.) Kansas could lead the economic development of **agricultural hemp** innovation in food, fiber, textiles and even greenhouse gas reduction research.

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1. This bill moves forward.

2. In 2023, messages of support, spearheaded by KDA, KBI, Kansas Farm Bureau, and legislative leaders confirm **agricultural hemp** is the new, pivotal crop option that traditional Kansas farmers need to embrace. Timing is everything and the time is now.
3. In 2024, more farmers can afford the licensing fees and 6,000 hemp acres make it to processing. My husband gets to be one of those farmers.
4. In 2025, Kansas grown hemp products will approach abundance and our dream home, nestled on 18 city acres of future crop land, becomes our reality.

Ask me about my hemp dream. This is exactly what that looks like.

**The primary need is for cohesive messaging supporting agricultural hemp as the way forward for Kansas farmers. Passing HB 2168 is how that message turns more dreamers into doers.**

What turns dreams into nightmares? Misinformation rooted in fear not facts.

Please note the following inaccuracies/misinformation in the Fiscal Note for HB 2168.

1. Why is there only \$600 in FY 2024 Revenue? If 2024 anticipates 288 new farmer licenses,  $288 \times \$250/\text{license}$  is \$72,000 in revenue. Why is only \$600 reflected?
2. Regarding "\$86,250 to administer 288 additional Tetrahydrocannabinol tests at a cost of \$300 per..." \$86,250 is incorrect. \$86,400 is the correct total.
3. Why is the listed cost per test \$300 when it is understood that performance-based testing is less than \$100/sample?
4. Why does enacting HB 2168 necessitate hiring 4.5 FTE's? Registering and reviewing 3,750 "new hemp products" is outside the scope of this bill. Any new products requiring THC testing would be part of a manufactured or retail experience. (See HB 2451) House Bill 2168 addresses needs for farmers and processors only. THC testing beyond performance-based testing is not applicable. This fiscal note needs revision.

Kansans for Hemp understands that KDA "is supportive of the industrial hemp industry." We support KDA continuing to guide the Industrial Hemp Program. We acknowledge that KDA opposes this bill based on "potential loopholes" regarding THC. We have concerns, however, about KDA misguiding legislative leaders by associating a cost of \$300 per THC test when **the FDA exemption of hemp seed already establishes that cannabinoids do not exist in the seed.** Regarding agricultural hemp, we respectfully request that KDA acknowledge that THC is not a valid issue. Perpetuating the fear of THC in hemp-based products only hurts farmers and is in direct conflict with supporting the hemp industry. The fear of "schedule one drugs" simply does not exist in hemp. Again: **the FDA exemption of hemp seed already establishes that cannabinoids do not exist in the seed.**

Thank you for dedicating time for this today.