

Date: February 13, 2017

To: Kansas State Legislators

From: Mark Simmons

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been involved in the farming and ranching industry for over 30 years and to say that agriculture is important to local economies in SW Kansas is an understatement. It is vital for this State and area to keep agriculture on the cutting edge as it pumps millions of dollars in the economy in the form of taxes, local business purchases and job creation.

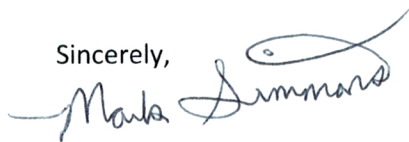
The Ag industry faces lots of perils and price fluctuations as we have seen in recent times. With that being said, low commodity prices have had a devastating effect on profit margins this last year and in many years in the past. With the cost of producing crops and expenses ever rising, low commodity prices to date, and limited water usage, it become imperative to have alternative crops such as Hemp to ensure a viable option to combat low prices and increase profit margins.

It is my understanding the Bill HR-1282 would allow Hemp production and provide greater diversity in crops produced and a whole new market alternative in times of falling prices. Hemp has proven to be conservation and a more environmentally friendly crop as it requires less herbicides, fertilizer and water.

This a viable crop option and needs to be seriously considered in the fight to keep Agriculture strong.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Simmons". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Mark Simmons