

**2/20/2020**

**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. I serve as co-founder of the coalition, Kansans for Hemp, involved in outreach and education prior to and after the reintroduction of hemp in 2018. I have been fortunate to be in a unique position to directly see and hear from people who are interested in this growing industry for our state. As a result, the Planted Association of Kansas was founded based on the need to have industry representation, networking opportunities and support for farmers and entities participating in hemp programs. Having been appointed a member of the Department of Agriculture's Industrial Hemp Research Advisory Board, I have been closely involved in the process of rules and regulation creating as well as approving applications for those to become licensed in Kansas. This is an historical and exciting time, yet as programs evolve and transition there is a need for continuous evaluation at the statutory level. This is why Senate Bill 449 is important.*

*What this legislation does is align Kansas statute with the enacted law at the federal level, specifically language passed in the 2018 Farm Bill. You may already know 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. However, Kansas restricts the sale of those same 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, and it is time Kansas remove the unnecessary restriction of zero tolerance, especially given the reality farmers are allowed to now grow hemp domestically. Over the past couple years this situation has caused issues ranging from confusion to damaging lawsuits. The situation we have now is not beneficial for the growing nutraceutical and related markets nor is it encouraging to hardworking farmers working towards financial independence and economic development in their communities.*

*Regardless of personal opinions on hemp or cannabis-derived products, it is here now and not going anywhere. Therefore 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 enacted by Governor Kelly. We strongly urge a "yes" vote on this legislation as it will have a positive impact on multiple industries moving forward.*

*Thank you for your consideration and pass out SB449 favorably.*

*Kelly Ripple  
Kansans 4 Hemp  
Planted Association of Kansas*