

CITY OF



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**Testimony to the House Agriculture Committee
In Support of S.B. 263**

March 8, 2018

Dear Chairman Hoffman and members of the committee,

The City of Russell strongly supports new job creation and business development opportunities for the state of Kansas and especially rural communities.

I am contacting you in support of SB 263 that passed out of the Senate to research industrial hemp and allow for a pilot program in Russell County. Such a pilot program should allow, in coordination with the department of agriculture or an education institution, cultivation, growth, analysis, and transportation of certified seed or industrial hemp.

With Kansas' rich agriculture history and knowledge we should be proactive and stake our claims as a leader in the commercialization of industrial hemp; assisting our family farms and rural communities with new value-added agriculture markets and job creation. Colorado, Kentucky, and North Dakota are already taking advantage of new crop production opportunities, job creation with processing facilities, and the growth of ancillary services each opportunity brings.

As a former law enforcement officer I understand the stigma associated with hemp, but industrial hemp is not marijuana and I am not advocating for the legalization of marijuana. Properly regulated, the commercialization of industrial hemp will provide new opportunities for our State's economy.

Based on the potential new job creation and business development opportunities for the state of Kansas I request you pass SB 263 favorably out of committee and to the full House.

Thank you for your consideration.


Jon Quinday, CPM
City Manager

"As a rural city, it is our vision to serve as the County's regional center. We will continue to be a community that is dedicated to family, friends and neighbors, where generations care for each other. We are One Russell, building a self-reliant future – We are HOME"