



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

January 22, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

For the past two years, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) has administered an Industrial Hemp Research Pilot Program, legitimized by the 2014 Farm Bill and authorized in Pennsylvania statute by the Industrial Hemp Research Act (act of July 20, 2016, P.L. 822, No. 92)(3 Pa.C.S.A. §§ 701-710). The passage and signing of the 2018 Farm Bill, particularly Section 12619 removing industrial hemp from regulation under the Controlled Substances Act, and Section 10113 providing for commercial production of industrial hemp, are welcome changes that will provide an exciting opportunity for industrial hemp in Pennsylvania. With this letter, I would like to submit Pennsylvania's industrial hemp regulatory plan for your consideration.

While Pennsylvania's industrial hemp research pilot program is already up and running, it is more restrictive than will be required under Section 10113 of the 2018 Farm Bill. Our plan is to declare industrial hemp a Controlled Plant under Pennsylvania's Controlled Plants and Noxious Weeds Law (act of October 30, 2017, P.L. 774, No. 46)(3 Pa.C.S.A. § 1501 *et seq.*), a declaration that requires all growers to register and obtain permits. The permit will include all information required by federal law for hemp production, while also carrying the full force of law for enforcement necessary for any violation of permit conditions.

I am attaching a copy of Pennsylvania's Controlled Plants and Noxious Weeds Law, along with a document cross-referencing the required contents of a state plan as found in the 2018 Farm Bill and how each requirement will be satisfied in Pennsylvania.

*I certify that Pennsylvania has the resources and personnel to carry out the practices and procedures described in clauses (i) through (vi) of Sec. 297B(2)(A) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 as amended in Sec. 10113 of the 2018 Farm Bill. I believe Pennsylvania has demonstrated, through the research program administered by PDA, that we have the capability to build an industrial hemp production regulatory program with the integrity and oversight that is needed. We are grateful for this opportunity to move industrial hemp forward as a crop alternative for farmers in Pennsylvania.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russell C. Redding".

Russell C. Redding  
Secretary