

Testimony SB2096

Sam Wagner
Ag and Food Field Organizer
Dakota Resource Council
1720 Burnt Boat Dr. Ste 104
Bismarck ND 58503

Testimony in Opposition for SB2096

DRC has released earlier testimony on this bill in opposition in the Senate that you can find on the public record. So we will not try to rehash what we said in earlier written testimony.

However, over the last month we have talked to our members and stores that are selling these products and we all have shared concerns over what this would do to the cannabinoid business which is arguably the most developed industry in hemp right now. We would agree with most of the people in this room that a Wild West approach shouldn't be used when selling CBD or other hemp based cannabinoids. Cutting out another market for hemp completely and possibly damaging small businesses in North Dakota by taking a reactionary approach is not the best policy either. It's debatable what the public wants because while we agree they have soundly defeated recreational, the public was overwhelmingly favorable for medical marijuana in 2016 and many people use some form of hemp creams, sleep aides, or CBD medications for their pain management. These legitimate uses are great value-added agricultural products that can entice our local farmers to carve out a small acreage of their farm to diversify their portfolio by selling hemp to local manufacturers.

We believe that this could be better done through a well regulated market surrounding hemp extract/cannabinoids, but we have doubts that this bill will not have unintended consequences. We feel there was limited opposition to this initially because this bill was introduced extremely early in the session with so little notice that many businesses were caught off guard and didn't have a chance to respond.

It is our belief that with proper regulation and all markets available to hemp farmers and processors in ND, we are more likely to foster a long term successful hemp industry. We would urge the house ag committee to sit down with the local members of the industry and make this a study instead of passing laws that could have unintended consequences in our state for farmers and industry workers.

We Recommend a DO NOT PASS unless this bill is turned into a study.