



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Sen. Testin, Rep. Kurtz Encouraged by Growth of Hemp Industry in Wisconsin

Legislators Look to Increase Confidence of Farmers, Processors, Retailers, and Consumers

Madison, WI – By almost any measure, hemp’s return to Wisconsin in 2018 exceeded expectations. 248 grower licenses and 100 processor licenses were issued by the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), a number that far surpassed the interest initially projected by industry experts.

With the federal government’s recent decision to remove hemp from the Controlled Substance List, Wisconsin lawmakers Senator Patrick Testin (Stevens Point) and Representative Tony Kurtz (Wonewoc) believe that 2019 will bring even more growth in the hemp industry. They are currently working on legislation to help farmers, processors, retailers, and consumers move forward with confidence.

“The market for hemp products is expanding,” said Senator Testin. “It’s important that the State of Wisconsin enable farmers and processors the freedom and opportunity to grow to meet that demand, while also offering consumers the ability to purchase these products with confidence of their safety.”

Kurtz, a certified organic farmer who has a license to grow hemp, agreed that the safe, non-psychoactive crop has broken into the mainstream.

“We’re paving the way to make Wisconsin a leader in this industry,” said Kurtz. “I think we could see DATCP issue two to three times more licenses this year than they did last year. At a time when commodity prices are low, it’s important to give our farmers the ability to diversify and explore more markets.”

Senator Testin and Representative Kurtz will be working with stakeholders from agriculture, industry, law enforcement, and the financial sector as they craft the legislation.

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