



WISCONSIN HEMP
ALLIANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wisconsin Hemp Alliance President Rob Richard released the following statement regarding the announcement that the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) will be transitioning the state's hemp pilot program to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Domestic Hemp Production Program:

"This is the right decision - there is no better time than now to transition our growers from the state's hemp pilot program to the USDA's Domestic Hemp Production Program. I am confident that Wisconsin's hemp producers and processors will see very little disruption as the transition is completed by January 1.

Now that the final federal hemp rule is in place, the USDA is fully engaged in hemp as an agricultural crop, and there is very little regulatory incentive for states to implement their own state plans, DATCP Secretary Randy Romanski is making the absolute right decision to move the program to USDA. Once growers are no longer under the state's pilot program, they will pay no license or registration fees to USDA, they will be eligible for federal grant and research funds, and they can hire their own USDA-approved testing facilities to sample and test their crops for proper Delta-9 THC levels.

Wisconsin's program has worked well for the first four growing seasons. From day one we have argued that we just want hemp to be treated like any other crop, so it's appropriate that we transition out of a state-centric program and federalize it like we do for any other commodity. There are even positive indications that Congress will deploy financial resources into hemp research and development opportunities and continue working to improve regulatory burdens that still exist.

As we strive for more sustainable solutions for many of today's complex issues, I firmly believe the future is bright for hemp in all its capacities – fiber, grain and cannabinoids.

Finally, special thanks to State Senator Patrick Testin, State Representative Tony Kurtz and former State Representative Jesse Kremer for their work in authoring Wisconsin's two hemp laws, as well as State Representative Dave Considine and State Senator Lena Taylor. Their bipartisanship set the stage for Wisconsin becoming the first state to unanimously pass legislation to legalize hemp. They arguably wrote one of the most effective hemp laws in the country. Also, thank you to the staff at DATCP who implemented the program and made it a success."

The Wisconsin Hemp Alliance is a state association bringing together growers, processors, retailers and consumers to further engage in the advocacy, education and promotion of hemp and hemp products.