



March 4, 2021

To: Senate Agriculture Joint Committee with House Agriculture

From: iHemp Michigan

PO Box 33

Ferrysburg, MI 49409

RE: SB 186

Chairs Daley and Alexander, and members of the committee,

iHemp Michigan supports swift passage of SB 186, which aligns Michigan's hemp program with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's recently finalized rules for growing and processing industrial hemp.

Michigan has produced an industrial hemp crop the past two seasons under temporary rules. Our farmers have proven they can grow this commodity around the state. Our state's leading manufacturers are strongly considering how they can incorporate hemp-based materials in products ranging from packaging to clothing to plastics in automobiles.

Hemp production in Michigan not only helps us reach sustainability and carbon sequestration goals, but could also help revolutionize our agriculture and manufacturing sectors. We cannot underscore enough the potential of this commodity, or the fact that other states around the nation are moving quickly to seize this opportunity themselves.

We appreciate the Legislature's quick response to get Michigan's regulatory program aligned with the finalized federal rule. We will continue working to bridge the current gap between Michigan's growers and makers, which will require strong investment in refining infrastructure in the coming months and years, and we hope to have your support in those efforts as well.

Respectfully,

iHemp Michigan