



P.O. Box 8431
Missoula, MT 59807

December 1st, 2006

Nancy K. Peterson - Director
Montana Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 200201
Helena, Montana 59620-0201

Dear Ms. Peterson:

The Montana Hemp Council (MHC) is a nonprofit (501(c)(3) (pending) organization whose purpose it is to educate the public concerning the history, uses, and benefits of cannabis hemp, and advocate to end its prohibition in Montana and nationwide.

In 2001, the Montana legislature passed Senate Bill 261, which legalized industrial hemp cultivation, gave rulemaking authority governing its cultivation to the Department of Agriculture, and directed the Department of Agriculture to request a change or waiver in federal law to allow for hemp cultivation. SB261 was supported by the Montana Grain Growers Association, Montana State University, and the Montana Farmers Union, and is now codified as state law in MCA Title 80, Chapter 18.

As you may already know, the North Dakota Department of Agriculture is working to reverse a federal ban on industrial hemp cultivation. North Dakota and other state agriculture officials met with U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration officials last February in Washington, D.C., to discuss the issue.

Under the proposed North Dakota regulations, farmers who want to grow industrial hemp are required to undergo a criminal background check, provide their fingerprints, make public to law enforcement officials the exact location of their fields, and show that their hemp seeds have less than three-tenths of 1 percent of the hallucinogenic chemical THC. These proposed regulations are included with this letter for your convenience.

I am writing to urge you move forward with industrial hemp for Montana farmers by implementing rules similar to North Dakota's and formally requesting a waiver from the federal government as soon as possible. We look forward to working with you to make hemp cultivation a reality in our great state. Please contact me if MHC can help in any way.

Sincerely,

Andrea Behunin
President, Montana Hemp Council
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59807
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