

Dear Committee Chair and Administrator,

I would like to testify in person on bill SF73 during the State and Local Government and Veterans Committee hearing on Tuesday, March 14 at 12:30 PM. I am an industrial hemp farmer in Zumbrota, Minnesota where we grow industrial hemp for our attractions Hemp Maze Minnesota and Canna Disc Golf. We are an agritourism business that educates and informs the public about hemp/cannabis. We also sell our CBD and CBG flower as well as our other medicinal products (topicals, tinctures, gummies, vapes, drinks, and low potency THC products) at our farm store on site and at the Olde Pine Theatre. **I would like to testify on the removal of industrial hemp from bill HF100 and SF73. SF73 list hemp 365 times while marijuana (illegal cannabis) is listed less than 60 times.** We would like to do business as usual and if this bill passes as it is written it will dramatically effect how we do business. **Hemp is already legal on a federal level with the passing of the 2018 farm bill.** Minnesota already has state statute 151.72 that regulates hemp products specifically CBD and THC derived from the hemp plant. I am listing a few of the key elements in this bill, SF73, that will have a detrimental effect on industrial hemp growers, producers, and retailers.

1) **Local Control** - We own the Olde Pine Theatre a performing arts venue in Pine Island, Minnesota. We sell our medicinal hemp derived products as well as CBD and Low Potency THC drinks. Pine Island City Council passed ordinance 164 on Tuesday, February 21, 2023. We have been selling hemp derived cannabinoid products out of the Theatre since the spring of 2019. Now we are forced to obtain a license from the city to sell any cannabinoid products, even CBD isolate and CBD broad spectrum products with no THC. **We need more access to cannabis not more regulation.**

2) **Article 1 - Sec. 13** SF73 does not allow for cannabis products to be sold within 1000 feet of a school, childcare, or park catering to youth. The Olde Pine Theatre is approximately 575 feet from Pine Island High School and Middle School. **Will we be able to sell our hemp derived products (CBD and Low Potency THC) from the theatre in the future?** Although it is important to keep THC away from children why are we treating cannabis differently than alcohol? In Pine Island the American Legion is less than 100 feet from Pine Island High School and Middle School and the Pine Island Sports Bar is less than 200 feet Pine Island High School and Middle School (please see attached map). **Why is it that alcoholic beverages can be served so close to a school with no state regulation?**

3) **Article 1 Sec. 20** - We are a family run business and our children help us on the farm to cultivate, process, and sell our hemp derived products including our CBD, CBG and low potency THC products. **This section of the bill will not allow us to employ individuals under 21 to work in a cannabis related business.** My 17 year old child who attends Pine Island High School is in Work Co-op and works at the farm for school credit. Once she graduates high school, she will be working at the farm full time retailing our CBD, CBG, and low potency THC products.

4) **Article 1 Sec. 9 Subd. 5** - "No person may import lower potency edible products or hemp-derived consumer products, other than hemp-derived topical products." We currently grow and process our hemp in two states (Minnesota and Wisconsin) and we sell hemp derived cannabinoid products made in Wisconsin, California, North Carolina, Colorado, and Arizona. The 2018 farm bill, allows for interstate commerce of hemp products. **This bill will eliminate the interstate commerce for hemp derived cannabinoid products in Minnesota. Why are we restricting hemp from interstate commerce? Alcohol and tobacco do not have these restrictions and both of those products are poisons to the body.**

We all have within us an endocannabinoid system. The body has CB1 receptors in the brain and spinal column and CB2 receptors in the immune system, nervous system, and internal organs. The real truth is cannabinoids are produced by the body. Cannabinoids are therefore similar to hormones like Vitamin D. The body actually produces cannabinoids when we exercise at intense levels. The runner's high is our bodies producing cannabinoids (THC). Most of us cannot obtain this level of exercise so what you are actually doing by restricting access is not allowing people to heal. I am asking that the legislators act quickly to correct errors in this bill to not harm industrial hemp growers and hemp cannabinoid retailers. Through education and information we can start to heal people in Minnesota with cannabis derived products. One thought to close with; cannabis is the only plant that can clothe you, shelter you, feed you, and heal you. We need to act now for the health of Minnesota people.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ted Galaty
Willow's Keep Farm (Minnesota)
HempMazeMN.com
Sacred Mounds Farm (Wisconsin)
Olde Pine Theatre