

6-21-2018

Ladies & Gentlemen, Members of the Board, thank you for this opportunity.

My name is Vince Kabbaz & I am the Vice President of the WI Hemp Farmers & Manufacturers Association.



Hemp has taken off across our nation. States that have legalized it have witnessed considerable mobilization of both the farming and manufacturing industries. States that have not, are yet to see this benefit and may miss out on valuable investment, as investors choose other states to pursue such opportunities. Unfortunately, these non-progressive states may simply miss out on this economic growth. Well done Wisconsin for your insight in legalizing hemp! It's a good start.

In paying attention to the industry trends and challenges, there's an obvious disconnect between farmers, processors, manufacturers, and suppliers that's limiting the full potential of this abundant industry.

Our not-for-profit organization, the Wisconsin Hemp Farmers & Manufacturers Association, was founded with the intention to aid the growth of Wisconsin's hemp industry in all areas. Now, with cannabis on reposition for legalization, this is included in our efforts on the education and reformation of cannabis in our Country, to provide a further legal boost to the economy and to legal entrepreneurship.

We believe in high quality, locally sourced hemp products. Through education and with a little dirt under our nails, we work directly with our farmers to ensure they yield the best possible crop for processors. We teach sustainable farming practices with a zero waste approach - utilizing the hemp crop in its entirety. We are working to provide our farmers and manufacturers free networking from farm to shelf.

Now, Wisconsin has the potential to write cannabis legalization legislation. Proper education and reformation of both hemp and cannabis would ensure our vision of high quality, locally sourced hemp & cannabis products. We are offering our services to help Wisconsin achieve this. We see this as an opportunity for legal economic growth. Why should this industry be run by criminals and why should people be jailed for use of cannabis? This is an unfair situation for everyone concerned, and legalizing cannabis will provide the opportunity for education in its safe use, provide safe controlled and tested products, and lessen stress on our legal and jail systems. One thing however, for us, this is not about tax revenues. This is about an opportunity for people to get involved in a growth industry and make their American Dream a reality.

We will have more information about our association's partnerships on July 2nd. We encourage you to visit our website {www.WIHFMA.org} and sign up for our newsletter. We look forward to joining arms with other organizations on the frontlines of this sustainable and economically promising industry.