



August 5, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary of Agriculture  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We are writing to ask for enforcement discretion for the upcoming October 31, 2020 deadline regarding hemp. As organizations whose members are involved in the regulation, production, and processing of industrial hemp, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) and the National Industrial Hemp Council (NIHC) appreciate your leadership in advancing a regulatory program that will provide a basis for growth of the hemp industry. Notwithstanding the progress that the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), farmers, and state departments of agriculture have made, we are writing to express concern regarding one aspect of the regulatory program for the 2020 hemp harvest.

For the past year, state departments of agriculture have worked tirelessly to bring their individual state's hemp programs in compliance with the Interim Final Rule (IFR) published on October 31, 2019. Many states were able to transition from their hemp pilot programs to a USDA state approved plan. However, at this time there are many states that will be unable to meet the forthcoming date of October 31, 2020. These states have cited that due to the unprecedented national COVID-19 pandemic that state regulators have been unable to work with their state legislatures to acquire necessary statutory amendments. Therefore, we ask USDA to issue a policy of enforcement discretion for this year.

Without a policy of enforcement discretion, hemp farmers will be left in a perilous situation through no fault of their own. We understand this is not a small request. We appreciate the tremendous amount of work that has gone into making American hemp the viable and valuable agricultural commodity it is today. This is a direct result of government serving the timely needs of the industry.

Thank you for considering our request. Both the NIHC and NASDA look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara P. Glenn".

**Barbara P. Glenn, Ph.D.**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
NASDA

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick Atagi".

**Patrick Atagi**  
*Board Chairman*  
National Industrial Hemp Council