

News Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

‘Growing Opportunities Act’ Sets Wisconsin Up to be National Leader in Hemp

MADISON – Today, Governor Tony Evers signed Senate Bill 188, the Growing Opportunities Act, into law. This legislation was the second major legislative effort in two years to legalize hemp in Wisconsin and put our state laws into compliance with the hemp provisions of 2018 Federal Farm Bill that permanently removed hemp from the Controlled Substances Act. The following statement can be attributed to Rob Richard, President of the Wisconsin Hemp Alliance:

“The Wisconsin Hemp Alliance is incredibly proud of all the work that went into Act 68 becoming law. State Senators Patrick Testin (R- Stevens Point) and Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee) and State Representatives Tony Kurtz (R- Waukegan) and Dave Considine (D-Baraboo) are to be commended for their efforts and showing that bi-partisanship is alive and well in the Capitol. The Alliance would also like to thank the law enforcement community for their willingness to find common ground on the bill and help get it across the finish line.

In November of 2017, Wisconsin became the first state in the country to unanimously pass a hemp pilot program into law. The response from the farming community was pleasantly shocking as we had approximately 245 grower applications and 100 processor applications submitted. With the 2018 Farm Bill removing hemp from the Controlled Substances Act, our farmers responded once again with tremendous interest as grower/processor applications increased six-fold over the previous year.

Although the hemp industry is in its infancy, we are now poised to once again become a national leader because of the incredible support from lawmakers, law enforcement, the business community, and the general public. With Act 68, we now have a permanent hemp program. This opens up opportunities for research at our state’s universities, for product innovation, market development, and crop diversification for our farmers.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Governor Evers for signing Senate Bill 188 and giving Wisconsin’s hemp farmers, processors, manufacturers, retailers and consumers the assurance they need to move this industry forward in a safe and positive way.”

The Wisconsin Hemp Alliance is a state association bringing together growers, processors, retailers and consumers to further engage in the advocacy, education and promotion of hemp and hemp products.