28 March, 2014

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

In March of 2014, the Legislature of the state of Indiana passed a bill that was signed into law by Governor Mike Pence on March 26, 2014, directing the Office of Indiana State Chemist & Seed Commissioner to pursue the necessary permits and authorities to grow and regulate industrial hemp in the state of Indiana.

In response to the passage and signing into law of this new Indiana statute (enclosed), I am writing to request from your Office the process for attaining legal authorities to conduct research on the potential uses of industrial hemp and production of industrial hemp granted by the 2014 United States Farm Bill (Section 7606 – “Legitimacy of Industrial Hemp Research”) passed by the United States Congress and signed into law by President Obama on February 7, 2014.

I am particularly seeking authoritative guidance on behalf of any person who may wish to participate in research on industrial hemp, regarding the legalities of ordering seed to produce a crop, specifically to bring seed of industrial hemp into the United States for agricultural purposes; possession of industrial hemp as seeds or as a growing crop; storing industrial hemp prior to shipment, or transporting industrial hemp to consign it to a processor for final use or modification for final use. Clarification of how to conduct legal advertisement, sale, and trade of industrial hemp as a regulated activity under federal and state law is of critical interest. It is my understanding that although the detection of THC in the blood or urine of workers who legally handle industrial hemp is unlikely, it is of interest to me and to others as to how production activities that take place legally, can be obviated for purposes of compliance with federal and state law and so to avoid prosecution for participating in a legitimate business activity.

Because this activity has been placed as a high priority by the Indiana legislature, as required under law, I am drafting this letter with intended compliance to the wishes of the Indiana legislature.

I request your assistance and guidance to enable Indiana to attain authorities authorized under the farm bill (Section 7606) to conduct research on industrial hemp and produce industrial hemp in the state of Indiana. Upon receipt of your guidance and subject to the successful completion of our response,
Indiana intends to promulgate rules to oversee the production of industrial hemp as prescribed by the Indiana legislature in statute.

This request is being made within forty-eight hours of this law's passage in the state of Indiana when it was signed by Governor Mike Pence.

Sincerely,

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