

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We are writing to urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture to expedite the drafting of rules as required under Subtitle G, Section 297D of the *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018* for the commercial production of hemp. While we are glad that the Farm Bill made great strides for our nation's burgeoning hemp industry, we are concerned that further postponement or delay in drafting and implementing the rules could hinder businesses that are relying on these new guidelines to plan for the future.

The Department of Agriculture's lack of promulgating new rules is having a serious impact on farmers in our state, including one in Wilton, Maine, whose hemp business grew from twenty to nine hundred acres of hemp in the past year. He recently purchased new equipment needed to dry hemp at a large scale, but much of it sits idle as he waits for the new regulations from the Department. This new equipment will be beneficial not only to his business, but to farmers who have started to grow and cultivate hemp.

Until the Department of Agriculture drafts and promulgates new rules, we are concerned that farmers and businesses who have already invested in the hemp industry may suffer. For this reason, we urge you to begin the rulemaking process as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



JARED GOLDEN
Member of Congress



CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress