

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 13, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's interim final rule on domestic hemp production (AMS-SC-19-0042).

As you know, the *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018* created a legal pathway for domestic hemp production. We appreciate that the Department published an interim final rule on October 31, 2019 to implement those farm bill provisions, providing much needed certainty for hemp growers and businesses in Maine and across the country. We understand that the State of Maine's Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) submitted comments to the interim final rule on December 2, 2019. As the Department works on drafting a final rule, we respectfully request your consideration of DACF's comments and concerns.

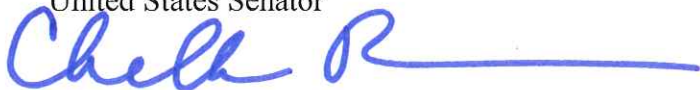
Hemp is grown in every county in Maine, totaling over 2,000 acres of hemp planted in 2019. During these difficult economic times for farmers, hemp provides an opportunity to diversify farmers' income and boost rural economies.

We look forward to working with you to ensure reasonable regulation of the hemp industry. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.


Sincerely,



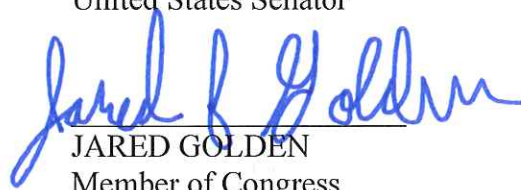
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United States Senator



CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senator



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