

March 6, 2015

Dear Members of the Genral Law Committee

This is testimony in support of 5780, from Doug Fine. As a hemp researcher and author of the book *Hemp Bound*, as well as speaking as a father, I believe hemp will have— indeed already is having — a positive impact on the rural and overall American economy. Prices for hemp are higher than most other crops already (profiting, for example, Canadian farmers to the tune of a billion dollar economy), and the industry is growing 24% annually. It's a bull hemp market, and Connecticut farmers, processors, and entrepreneurs should get in on the growth. Myself, I'm a part of projects in Kentucky and Oregon this year, and having grown up on Long Island looking across the Sound at Connecticut, it would be thrilling to have Thomas Jefferson's favorite crop back in New England soil, creating value-added, thriving rural economies. The book provides a model to this end: info at dougfine.com. Thank you.

Best,

Doug Fine
Grant County, New Mexico