To the Esteemed Members of the Connecticut Senate Committee on Public Health,

My name is Amichai Axelrod, but everyone calls me Mick. I reside at 11 Burt Dr, Middlefield, CT 06455. I am writing you today in favor of H.B. 5314.

Allowing the People of Connecticut to grow Cannabis in its’ various forms (strains both inert and those containing THC), and regulating the consumption of psychoactive products to those 21 years of age or older, as is supposed by H.B. 5314, would be the most American of decisions by the Government of the State of Connecticut to date. Patriot and Founding Father Benjamin Franklin wrote the rhetoric of the American Revolution on (nontoxic) hemp paper that he milled himself, because the British held accounting for all other available paper. Pioneer of industry Henry Ford built a car composed 80% of hempen materials, and which ran on clean hempseed oil biodiesel. Hemp saved the life of George H.W. Bush in World War II, his parachute was made of it thanks to the US “Hemp for Victory” campaign.

Hemp is a whole-plant product, relatively quick to be produced from seed to consumer, that can be used to restructure our impact on the planet in the positive. Hemp is a natural part of our biosphere, which we have been eradicating for 80 years. Environmentally speaking, one hemp plants consumes 4x more carbon every 20 years than a tree does in the same time period; hemp replenishes the mineral content of soil in its wake and can help remediate the soil from heavy metals.

The availability of hemp to Connecticut growers would allow them to rotate crops while mending the earth, and would provide them new crops for new avenues of profit, to a whole slew of
available industries. The seeds can be used for biodiesel and the bird-feed industries. The flowers can be consumed and are nutritious - potential revenues ranging from milks and breads to salves, balms, and medicines for a broad range of human ailments and nutritional needs. The stalks, stems, heart, and bast (waste) can all be utilized for a variety of consumer and industrial materials.

As a textile, there is no more versatile a material than hemp: it can be made into clothing, plastics, construction materials more resilient than concrete and sheetrock and rooftop tiling, and even graphene-like substances that will give us a new wave of technologies in armoring our soldiers, supercapacitors to power our vehicles and homes, and the next major leap in computing. Hemp is part of an answer to American energy independence, combined with other renewable avenues of energy generation and storage.

The decision that this body makes today is but one small step in a greater road that lies ahead. The decision by the State of Connecticut to ratify such an Act as is described by H.B. 5314 would be a historic turning point in granting the right to hemp back in the hands of the People of Connecticut, which was stolen from the American People with the 1937 Marihuana Tax Act. Yes, the decision to support H.B. 5314 is ultimately a decision pertaining to the recreational use of psychoactive Cannabis, but its ramifications will reverberate across the American socioeconomic landscape.

Please, strongly consider supporting H.B. 5314. Prohibition did not achieve the success it hoped for regarding alcohol consumption, and it has failed in keeping Cannabis out of American consumers’ hands. Regulating and taxing Cannabis consumption would disempower criminal
elements profiting from illegal trade. Thank you for considering this testimony in your deliberation.

Sincerely,

Amichai “Mick” Axelrod
Select References

PBS Timeline of Cannabis: [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/dope/etc/cron.html]


Remediation of Benzo[a]pyrene and Chrysene-Contaminated Soil with Industrial Hemp (Cannabis sativa)
Sonia Campbell, Daniel Paquin, Jonathan D. Awaya, and Qing X. Li
International Journal Of Phytoremediation
Vol. 4, Iss. 2,2002: [http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15226510208500080]

Energy crops in rotation. A review
Walter Zegada-Lizarazu Andrea Monti, Biomass and Bioenergy

BBC: “Hemp fibres 'better than graphene'”:

Life cycle assessment of a hemp concrete wall: Impact of thickness and coating
Sylvie Pretot Florence Collet Charles Garnier, Building and Environment

American Society of Mechanical Engineers:
[https://www.asme.org/engineering-topics/articles/energy/hemp-carbon-makes-supercapacitors-superfast]

Prohibition, The History Channel: [http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/prohibition-ends]