



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Commissioner



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Good morning Senators Doyle and Kissel, Representatives Tong and Rebibbas, and members of the Judiciary Committee.

The Department of Agriculture would like to thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on **S.B. 487, *An Act Concerning the Legalization, Taxation, and regulation of the Retail Sale and Recreational Use of Marijuana and Concerning the Production and Regulation of Hemp.*** While the Department is not taking a position on recreational marijuana, we would like to offer some comments for this Committee to consider.

Section 43 of the bill defines hemp grown as a “crop, produced, possessed and commercially traded in the state as an agricultural product.” The Department agrees that if hemp is to be cultivated in Connecticut, it should be considered an agricultural product.

Section 44 of the bill requires that anyone who intends to grow hemp needs to register with the Department of Agriculture and outlines specific requirements that need to be considered when registering. Those requirements include the disclosure of the address of the individual cultivating the crop, a statement that the seeds used to cultivate the crop are of a variety that has a capped maximum of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, the location and acreage of all parcels where the crop would be grown, and a requirement by the applicant to allow inspection at the discretion of the agency. These are all reasonable steps that should be included in the establishment of any such program. The Department supports this section of the bill.

Section 45 allows for the Department of Agriculture to pass regulations supporting section 44 and would require that we adopt regulations prohibiting the cultivation of hemp in close proximity to marijuana cultivation facilities. This is an important preventative measure that would minimize the likelihood of cross-pollination. The Department supports this section of the bill as well.

As always, the Department of Agriculture is happy to continue discussions with the committee on this or any matter that would enhance agriculture in the State of Connecticut.