



To Whom It May Concern:

July 12, 2021

On behalf of Vote Hemp, I write respectfully to urge the Parliament of Albania and other institutions to support the National Albanian Hemp Industry Association's Vote for Hemp campaign requesting the amendment of Law nr. 7975, date 26.7.1995 "On Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances" to the best international standards for supporting redevelopment of the industrial hemp industry in Albania. The redevelopment of Albanian's hemp industry can lead to increasing agricultural employment and exports, creating rural development opportunities, and reduce illegal cannabis cultivation.

The United States Farm Bill of 2018 set the limit specifically for Delta-9 Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) at 0.3%. On March 22 the final rules to the Farm Bill 2018 implemented changes to the industrial hemp regulations. These new regulations allow for some additional support for farms:

- Allow farms 30 days before harvest to get their plants tested for Delta-9 THC
- Allowing hemp processors to remediate Delta-9 THC from harvested hemp that are between the range of 0.3% and 1% Delta-9 THC

However, Vote Hemp, the Farm Bureau and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture are requesting Congress to increase the Delta-9 THC limit for hemp to 1% because the current 0.3% requirement has proven unworkable forcing many farmers to destroy their crops when they were slightly over the limit. We need Congress to change the definition of hemp to allow up to 1% Delta-9 THC so that farmers can grow hemp crops without fearing that they will later have to destroy them. We recommend a 1% THC limit for Albania as well.

The advantage of increasing the THC limit allows for the cultivation of more hemp varieties which can be approved for cultivation. There are possibly only a few hemp varieties that could produce less than 0.1% THC, 60 to 70 hemp varieties that produce up to 0.2%, 300 to 500 hemp varieties which produce up to 0.5% THC and possibly thousands of hemp varieties which can produce up to 1% THC. These THC ranges create trade advantages for countries allowing higher THC levels. In order for the countries allowing higher THC levels to export industrial hemp products to countries with lower THC restrictions their hemp processors remediate THC from their products.

We look forward to supporting Albania's success with redeveloping the industrial hemp industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Steenstra', written over a white background.

Eric Steenstra  
President