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****Important Information Regarding your Industrial Hemp License****

January 31, 2020

NC Industrial Hemp Licensee:

Please note that this license is for the N.C. Industrial Hemp Research Pilot Program as authorized by the State of N.C. and the 2014 federal Farm Bill. We anticipate operating under these provisions until October 30, 2020 but this may change and the date cut short pending legislation as outlined below.

Although you have been approved to receive an Industrial Hemp License under the NC Industrial Hemp Pilot Program, you should be aware of future uncertainties for the program and the resulting validity of your license. This uncertainty is the result of the implementation of the 2018 federal Farm Bill provisions regarding hemp production throughout the US. The N.C. General Assembly has been debating legislation which would make conforming changes to state law that would comply with the federal bill. The [NC Farm Act](#) has not yet passed the NC General Assembly but may produce changes to the program that affect you and your license. In order to comply with the 2018 federal Farm Bill, there is a possibility that the Act will require the state to submit a plan for approval by USDA. Because of the stringent requirements of the interim USDA rules, which we believe to be excessive, the state's application may not be accepted by USDA. In that event, there is the possibility that the state would not have its own program and growers would operate under the USDA program. In either case, the pilot program for which you have received a license will eventually come to an end by October 30, 2020.

There are other combinations and possibilities for laws that may affect you and the state's program. Whereas we realize this uncertainty puts you in a difficult situation, it is currently beyond our control. We did however want you to be aware of the uncertainty before moving forward with investing more time and resources.

After October 2020, there will be federal and/or state changes to the cultivation of hemp in N.C. Your license may or may not be transferable to a future program.

The N.C. Industrial Hemp Commission and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will do all we can to help you and the NC hemp industry thrive through this time of change. We appreciate your patience as the hemp industry continues to mature and adjust to these new federal requirements.

Sincerely,

Phillip Wilson
Director

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