



June 1, 2025

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott,

I am writing to ask for your veto of SB3 because many Texas farmers will be forced to shut down due to the unintended consequences of the rush to ban intoxicating THC sold by others. We are counting on you to protect our farmers' ability to grow federally compliant hemp used to produce safe, non-intoxicating, and nutritious products for Texas and American consumers.

Senate Bill 3's "Zero-Detectable THC" Standard Is an impossible threshold for naturally occurring contaminants in hemp seed products. Even nutritious hemp hearts, a common food product, naturally tests positive for non-intoxicating residual levels of THC. These trace amounts are no more concerning than the allowable, trace amounts of other naturally occurring substances found in other foods like heavy metals. Hempseed oil, hearts and protein have been recognized by the FDA as safe and incapable of making people high^[1] even though they may contain trace amounts of THC. Imposing a zero-detectable rule would shut down legitimate Texas hemp farms and processors, erasing thousands of jobs and millions in tax revenue.

My name is Kyle Bingham, Vice President of the National Hemp Growers Association—formerly the Texas Hemp Growers Association—and a proud 5th generation Texas hemp farmer. Our association was founded to advance producer-led initiatives that build a robust domestic hemp supply chain. My colleagues and I are writing with urgent concerns about Senate Bill 3. If signed, this legislation would devastate Texas's emerging hemp industry and our farmers.

Texas is home to one of the world's largest agricultural economies and our farmers need profitable rotational crops. Hemp grain markets for food and animal feed fit this need perfectly, delivering high nutritional returns for consumers.

- 3 Tbsp of hemp hearts has 10g of complete protein - more than an egg^[2]
- Hemp contains heart-smart omega-3 & omega-6 in a 1 : 3 ratio
- Rich in iron, magnesium, zinc, B-vitamins^[3]

Hemp grain processing creates feed opportunities for Texas livestock producers who need new, nutrient-dense feedstock. Hempseed by-products supply complete protein and balanced fats ideal for poultry and other livestock. Market research shows in

1 CFSAN. (2018). FDA Responds to Three GRAS Notices for Hemp Seed-Derived Ingredients for Use in Human Food
<https://fda.gov/food/cfsan-constituent-updates/fda-responds-three-gras-notices-hemp-seed-derived-ingredients-use-human-food>
2 <https://fdc.nal.usda.gov/fdc-app.html#/food-details/169912/nutrients>
3 <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10681-004-4811-6>



2009, Texas egg producers milled more than 560,000 tons of feed. Estimated hempseed-meal demand if incorporated into rations and fed in accordance with the Texas Feed Industry Memorandum No.5-36 is:

- 120,000 tons for Texas laying hens
- 56,000 tons for Texas broilers

Hemp Foods represent a booming consumer market for Americans who purchase tens of millions of dollars in hemp hearts every year.

Hemp foods are stocked nationwide at Costco, Whole Foods, and Natural Grocers.

The Texas Grocer HEB, Central Market and other Texas retailers sell hemp hearts

U.S. retail sales of hemp foods exceeded \$80 million recently^[4]

We urge you to veto Senate Bill 3. Instead of banning safe hemp foods, fiber, and feeds, please support legislation that will allow our industry to continue to operate responsibly. By supporting Texas farmers and livestock producers, you also promote in-state processing of safe and legal food and animal feed products to keep value-added revenues in Texas and ensure consumer choice at the grocery store.

Texas producers stand ready to supply nutritious, legal hemp products that strengthen rural economies and bolster food security. Senate Bill 3, as written, would erase that opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration. I am available to provide data or testimony at your convenience.

Respectfully,

Kyle Bingham
Vice President, National Hemp Growers Association
2531 69th St
Lubbock TX, 79345
kyle@bingham.wine
806-445-7744

⁴ <https://brightfieldgroup.com/>