



July 16, 2019

Lowell J. Schiller,
Acting Associate Commissioner for Policy.
Food and Drug Administration,
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061,
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket No. FDA-2019-N-1482

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on, "Scientific Data and Information About Products Containing Cannabis or Cannabis-Derived Compounds".

This letter is submitted on behalf of the members of the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO). Members of AAPCO consist of the officers charged by law with the execution of the state, territorial, provincial, and federal pesticide laws in the United States, including all its territories, and in Canada.

It is commonly recognized that industrial hemp may be grown for a variety of purposes. These include, but are not limited to: as a protein or oil source utilizing the seed; as a source of fiber; and also for derivatives that contain no more than 0.3 percent delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). There are currently many agricultural crops classified as food crops which are grown exclusively to extract oils or other substances. These include oils from seeds such as canola, oils extracted or distilled from foliage such as mint, or substances extracted from cones (flowers) such as hops. After extensive requirements are met, including the establishment of food tolerances, pesticides are eligible to be registered for use on these food crops.

It is the opinion of AAPCO that industrial hemp should be treated similarly to other crops and regulated as a food crop, with the recognition that it may be grown for food products and its by-products may be feed to livestock. Pesticides used on agricultural food and feed crops are heavily regulated by both federal and state agencies, using an established framework that is familiar to agricultural producers.

AAPCO strongly urges FDA to provide a pathway forward for non-THC cannabinoids to be regulated as a food and feed for whole plant extracts. This will support state pesticide regulatory agencies and increase consumer protection by the regulation and enforcement of food tolerances.

Not classifying hemp as a food crop will perpetuate the “grey-market” and does not allow state lead agencies to provide quality control over pesticide use. It also does not allow for the establishment of appropriate pesticide tolerances for the types of products that will continue to be offered for sale in the marketplace.

Please do not hesitate to use the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO) as a resource. Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

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and

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