



Agriculture Committee

Member Day Hearing

Rep. Tim Moore, Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Thompson.

As part of the government funding package that ended the shutdown, the bill included major changes to federal hemp policy without industry input.

Specifically, it changed the federal definition and regulation of hemp-derived products.

These changes were made completely outside of regular order. There were no hearings, no stakeholder engagement, and no meaningful debate.

As enacted, this new law would effectively eliminate **over 95% of North Carolina's hemp industry** and put more than **220,000 American jobs** at risk.

This would have major consequences for small businesses and farmers in North Carolina and across the U.S. — it could destroy entire rural economies.

This very committee was at the heart of enacting the hemp provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Farmers in North Carolina have relied on that framework for the past several years. They have invested in land, seeds, equipment, processing facilities, and retail operations.

They entered this industry in good faith, following the rules and guidance set forth in the Farm Bill.

It is simply not right to change the rules of the game overnight, and certainly not without going through the proper legislative process.

House Republicans talk a lot about restoring the American Dream in rural America — so why are we ripping it away from hemp farmers who have done everything right?

Small businesses and farms across this industry are already being forced to consider laying off employees and pulling long-term investments.

This sweeping change is set to take effect next year unless Congress acts to stop it.

In the months ahead, I strongly encourage this Committee to use regular order to thoroughly examine the issue and to develop legislation that addresses the mess being made by these changes.

The Agriculture Committee is the appropriate venue to evaluate the full scope of impact, hear directly from our farmers, and determine the best path forward.

These hardworking folks deserve the opportunity to have their voices heard. They deserve a clear regulatory framework that reflects real-world conditions and ensures fair competition.

I look forward to working with this Committee and stand ready to serve as a resource and partner as you take up this issue.

With careful consideration and stakeholder engagement, we can protect American farmers and correct the missteps that occurred when these changes were enacted outside of regular order.

Thank you for your attention and leadership on this matter.