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Department of Agriculture

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Honorable Clifford Joseph Sr.
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and Justice
Legislature of the U. S. V. I.
St. Croix, VI

December 3, 2025

Dear Senator Joseph:

On behalf of the Hemp Commission I respectfully request that you excuse me and the members of the Hemp Commission from the hearing scheduled for December 4, 2025. I have been informed by your office, that Congress has redefined hemp, thus our jurisdiction is limited to industrial hemp and not consumables derived from hemp. I have also been informed that OCR will assume the responsibility for regulating all consumables, thus removing us from the process.

According to the federal law, all intoxicating hemp products will be disqualified from meeting the definition of hemp.

The Hemp Commission has been meeting with the members of OCR and we will continue to collaborate going forward.

The members of the Commission applaud you for taking the lead on this issue and we are equally pleased that Congress has taken the initiative to provide more clarity on the definition of hemp.

Please accept this letter also as our support for your legislation and regulation of the industries, both Hemp and Cannabis.

Thank you for your understanding and best wishes to you and your staff for the holidays.

Riise E. S. Richards
Deputy Commissioner
Chairperson
Hemp Commission