



Kentucky Hemp Association files injunction to allow legal sale of Delta-8 THC hemp products

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 15, 2021

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LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY - The Kentucky Hemp Association is fighting back after several police raids of lawful hemp retail stores throughout the commonwealth.

The group filed an injunction on Tuesday, July 13 in Boone Circuit Court. The injunction would prohibit law enforcement from using a letter from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to target hemp products containing Delta-8 THC.

The Complaint argues that such products are legal under the applicable state and federal legislation that regulates hemp production. Further, it states that inaction from the courts could have a “potential billion-dollar impact to Kentucky’s economy, hemp growers, producers, and retail store owners.”

This legal action comes in the wake of an April 2021 advisory opinion from the General Counsel of the Agriculture Commissioner, concluding that Delta-8 THC hemp products are not exempted from the federal controlled substances list.

On June 15 Kentucky State Police raided two lawful hemp retail stores in Morehead, Kentucky in an effort to seize Delta-8 THC products. Law enforcement took a wide variety of hemp products, money and cameras, and charged store employees with marijuana trafficking. Several other stores around the Commonwealth have been raided since.

The motion is filed on behalf of the Kentucky Hemp Association and its members. Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles and Kentucky State Police Commissioner Col. Phillip Burnett Jr. are named as defendants.

The KYHA and numerous individual members have retained legal counsel to fight back against the encroachment into the hemp industry. The Kentucky Hemp Association calls on the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to rescind its guidance letter and for new guidance to be issued.

Statements from KYHA Members:

Dee Dee Taylor, CEO/Founder 502 Hemp Wellness Center - Louisville
(502) 409-2292

deedee@502hemp.com

"I am blessed to be in the hemp industry providing quality products to Louisville and beyond. When Delta-8 was first introduced, I was skeptical about its legalities. I did my research and reached out to local law enforcement and even a local state representative and no one could tell me it was illegal since the Delta-9 THC levels were below 0.3%. So I started selling these products in September 2020. I have many customers that use our Delta-8 products for many different reasons and they feel relief. True relief. When the letter from the KDA was sent out, I along with a few others spoke to attorneys, but everyone agreed it was just an opinion that didn't hold any merit. Then stores were raided in June. Talk about being scared. I have never in my life been a criminal and the thought of my wellness center being raided caused me to react and reach out to my colleagues to come together and form a sort of "union" to protect our freedoms to sell these lawful products. I know the fight will be a long road, but I am very grateful to be a member of the KYHA and work together with other hemp retailers to continue to sell these products that so many people want and need."

Rose Seeger, Owner KY Girl Hemp - Burlington
Co-Plaintiff
(859) 653-2830

kygirlhemp@gmail.com

"The 2018 farm Bill made all hemp products legal in the State of Kentucky. This allowed for diverse products to be made from hemp and should be legal as long as all products are below the 0.3% Delta-9 THC threshold. Our customers are having to go to other states to get the relief they need, when they could be buying it here in Kentucky. I am honored to be a part of the lawsuit and will continue to fight for my customers."

Ginny Seville, Benevolent Dictator The Botany Bay - Lexington
(859) 333-0215

office@thebotanybay.com or botanybay97@gmail.com

"People all across the country are thriving in the hemp space. It's shameful that the entrepreneurs of Kentucky are treated like criminals while citizens in other states are encouraged to flourish. Kentucky needs to step into the new era of hemp freedom. We sincerely hope this puts an end to the law enforcement activity we've seen. We would not want this to spiral into Sec. 1983 lawsuits at the end of this one."

William R Sutterfield III, Founder & CEO The Eastern Kentucky Hemp Company - Grayson
(606) 547-7492

Will@ekyhemp.com

"In light of recent events, I would like to make a few things very clear. It is in the opinion of myself and everyone at The Eastern Kentucky Hemp Company that the good people of Kentucky have access to the hemp/cannabis products that they have the god given right to have access too. We will NOT stand by on idle as the KDA or other agencies overstep their boundaries and infringe on the rights of ourselves, friends, and loved ones. The recent actions from the KDA have done nothing except slow monumental advancements and progress of the hemp industry, and prevented the good people of our Commonwealth from accessing something they not only demand, but deserve to have access to. The people of our state and country have fought long and hard to have access to hemp/cannabinoid products, in my opinion too long to allow political dogma of this nature to be forced upon and allowed within our state. Rest assured, WE WILL NOT stop until the people have and maintain the rights they deserve."

Katie Moyer, Founder Kentucky Hemp Works - Dawsons Springs
(270) 305-4057

Kentuckyhempworks@gmail.com

"The hemp industry has never been without its share of challenges. In 2014 James Comer sued the DEA for the return of 250 pounds of hemp seed, which was seized in Louisville under the premise that it was a controlled substance. Hemp was not a controlled substance then, and 8 years later, it is still exempted from the Controlled substances list. We are simply asking regulators to step back from the failed Drug War mentality, so they can fully absorb the breadth of federal law and its relationship to cannabis and hemp. It's time to get government out of the way and let farmers and retailers reap the benefits of all their hard work."

Tate Hall, Kentucky Hemp Association President - Owensboro
(270) 903-6267

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"The KYHA will always fight for the rights of farmers, processors and retailers in Kentucky and the U.S. Federal law is on our side, and the interpretation of the 2018 Farm Bill remains the same today as it did when law enforcement declared CBD a controlled substance and seized products and money from Kentucky retail stores in 2017. We look forward to a fair and impartial decision that won't be swayed by political opinions, and puts our hemp farmers first."

Co-plaintiff Jason Marshall, owner of Rocky Ridge Hemp Co., in Cynthiana, can be reached at
(859) 588-0322 or jason@rockyridgehempco.com.

Find additional attachments in the email release of this distribution containing an unofficial copy of the motion, as well as the advisory letter from the office of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

ABOUT THE KENTUCKY HEMP ASSOCIATION

The Kentucky Hemp Association is a 501(c)(6) non-profit trade group that consists of members who are involved in hemp research, advocacy, legislation, farming, processing, product development, manufacturing, distribution, marketing and education. More can be learned about the group and its efforts at kyhempassociation.org.

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