Attachment D

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union supports the legalization of industrial hemp. This action would provide producers with another alternative crop especially with drought conditions impacting our state from time to time. It could also provide other economic benefits and job creation with processing facilities locating within the state of Colorado. With the passage of Amendment 64 Colorado has taken the step to legalize the cultivation of industrial hemp. That action raises a number of questions for agriculture producers as the production of hemp is still illegal federally. Rocky Mountain Farmers Union has submitted a requested the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency to answer a number of questions regarding potential negative ramifications for producers signed up in the farm program, as well as participating in other USDA programs such as, conservation programs or crop insurance, should they produce Industrial Hemp, transport hemp or any by-product across state lines for marketing.

1) If Industrial Hemp, now legal in CO, is produced on registered base acres, would the producer loss eligibility for farm program benefits on the acreage used for production of hemp or on the entire acreage signed up within the farm program?
2) Would loss of farm program benefits include coverage of and participation in crop insurance?
3) Would loss of farm program benefits include conservation payments, including CRP, the producer may currently be receiving?
4) What other farm bill impacts are defined by the federal government if a producer chooses to produce Industrial Hemp?
5) How would federal inter-state commerce laws impact a producer or a producer-owned cooperative that market hemp or hemp by-products across state lines?

If the state established a license, authorizing production under the authority given by the recently passed initiative, would state law supersede federal law and protect a state licensed producer in the production of Industrial Hemp?

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union believes the answers to these questions are needed and would be beneficial to members of the Colorado legislature in developing and enacting legislation to encourage the production of industrial hemp.

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