

THIS IS NOT ABOUT FARMERS – IT IS ABOUT LABORATORIES

The intoxicating-hemp industry is framing this debate as a fight to protect American farmers. *The facts show otherwise.*

1. Almost no American farmland is involved

The United States has approximately 876 million acres of farmland.

Fewer than 17,000 acres are devoted to cannabinoid hemp — only a microscopic fraction of total U.S. agricultural land.

A market claiming \$28 billion in annual value is not being built from crops grown on those few acres.

2. The products are manufactured, not farmed

Hemp plants do not naturally produce the concentrations of intoxicating THC found in products sold in smoke shops, convenience stores, gas stations, and online.

Manufacturers create these products by chemically converting non-intoxicating CBD isolate into:

- Delta-8 THC
- Delta-9 THC
- Delta-10 THC
- Other THC analogs

The economic engine of this industry is laboratory manufacturing, not American agriculture.

3. Keeping the loophole open does not protect farmers

The intoxicating-hemp industry uses the image of the American farmer to defend a chemical-conversion business model.

But preserving this market does not protect:

- An acre
- A crop
- A farmer

Hemp grown for fiber, grain, and seed is an agricultural commodity. Chemically converted THC is a manufactured intoxicant. Policymakers should not treat them as the same industry.



4. The Senate language leaves the main synthetic market untouched

Section 2019 of the Senate draft continuing resolution is being presented as temporary protection for the hemp industry.

But the provision applies only to cannabinoids that are “not capable of being naturally produced” by the cannabis plant.

That language may reach compounds such as THC-O acetate and HHC-O. It does not reach commercially dominant converted cannabinoids such as delta-8 THC and delta-10 THC because those compounds can occur naturally in trace amounts.

At commercial scale, however, these products are not harvested from plants. They are manufactured by chemically converting CBD isolate in a laboratory.

The result is a continued exemption for the highest-volume and lowest-oversight segment of the intoxicating-hemp market.

5. Congress can protect real hemp agriculture without protecting intoxicants

The industrial-hemp provisions included in the House-passed 2026 Farm Bill are the measures that support legitimate American agriculture.

They address:

- Fiber
- Grain
- Seed
- Other bona fide industrial-hemp production

Those provisions protect farmers, acreage, crops, and agricultural investment.

They have nothing to do with preserving chemically converted, high-potency THC products.

Bottom line

This is not a choice between protecting farmers and regulating hemp.

Congress can protect legitimate industrial-hemp agriculture while closing the loophole for chemically converted intoxicants.

THE DISTINCTION IS SIMPLE:

Farmers grow crops.
laboratories manufacture intoxicants.