

From: Henry Gage, Jr. **Date:** June 15, 2022

To: NEASDA President, Pennsylvania Secretary, Russell Redding

Cc: The Northeastern Association of State Departments of Agriculture member state Commissioners for: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Subject: NEASDA Industrial Hemp Research Collaboration - Proposal, and Open Letter ver 0.3 with photos added and a few minor edits.

Dear Secretary, Russell Redding,

We had the honor of attending this year's NEASDA meeting in historic Hershey, PA. It was a good time to meet Commissioners and Secretaries from so many states. We were able to show examples of products made from hemp and left a gift of a hemp bag for you. We hope you enjoy it, plus the information within.

As Director of Certifications, for the US Hemp Building Association, founder of Build Green Now (Kingston, NY), and Senior Project Manager for The Jersey City Anti-Violence Coalition Movement Unity Walk 2022, I want to thank you.



Our Build Green team was the first in our region to retrofit a house with hemp-lime (hempcrete) insulation. [HEMP HOUSE 1 - BUILD GREEN NOW](#)



We were part of the international team that presented hemp-lime to the International Code Council (ICC) in April, leading to "Hemp-lime IRC Proposal Recommended for Approval" [Hemp-lime IRC Proposal Recommended for Approval](#)

The favorable business environment in NY state and the support we continue to receive from Commissioner Richard Ball's office has been an inspiration to continue our work. We look forward to working with you, as a neighboring state.

Now we are asking for collective help to accomplish a national agricultural goal ...to get more hemp grown and milled and to create maker spaces close to mills. Combining our unity and collaboration with a reasonable plan can inspire a generation of hemp innovations.

We live in Kingston, NY, a farming community. To retrofit a house, we purchased 4 pallets of lime binder from Limeworks in PA, however the 5 pallets of hemp were shipped from Europe because none was available in America! Our goal is to lower the carbon footprint of our next hemp purchase by creating an entire supply chain in our local area, and show other states and regions how to achieve the same.

“Hemp For Victory” 2.0

Industrial Hemp helped America as part of the war efforts. Now it is returning to win the peace. Farmers, investors, and innovators approve this plan. It provides support for industrial hemp market activity.

 <p>Liberate Hemp Build Green Now</p> <p>BUILDGREENNOW.NET Fiber and Hurd are Industrial Hemp... CBD is Cannabinoid Hemp. Builders of the first hempcrete retrofit in Kingston.</p> <p>https://www.buildgreennow.net/liberate-hemp.html</p>	 <p>Buy Hemp Now!</p> <p>BUILDGREENNOW.NET Commissioner, please buy NY Industrial Hemp products to kickstart the market.</p> <p>https://www.buildgreennow.net/buy-hemp.html</p>
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We provide a solution to the questions of how to get the market started. For many, the discussions have revolved around the “Chicken or Egg” situation for what can benefit the market first - growing hemp ready to process, or building a mill ready to process hemp not yet grown. See: [Buy Hemp Now](#).

Commissioners of Agriculture and Markets are uniquely positioned to make better science and economic decisions by taking action within their existing authority and budget. Think about hemp paper products, uniforms for government employees made from hemp, hemp single use plastic products, hemp roadside erosion control mats, etc.

When orders for Industrial Hemp products are received in sufficient dollar amounts, then farmers and investors receive a clear signal that the market is supported with favorable capital investment from government departments. Demand visibility provides critical evidence to financial institutions and stimulates investment in farms and building mills for processing and factories.

However, it is critically important that every team that benefits from the investment opportunities stimulated by their state also provide an Equity and Inclusion plan to help create a stable market that is equally beneficial to all.

Industrial Hemp Collaboration Recommendations (to: Commissioners of Agriculture and Markets):

1. Initiate purchase orders for American industrial hemp products now and agree to receive delivery in 18 months.

Considering that a hemp processing mill cost over \$5M, it is reasonable for the government to take the lead and lower the risk for potential investors. Purchase orders create demand visibility that is critical when attracting capital investment.

2. Build at least 1 hemp processing mill in each state, for the purpose of hemp processing research and workforce development. Include BIPOC members on the senior management teams of each mill.

There is an urgent need to reverse the devastating impact of racial discrimination against the BIPOC communities and this is a step in a positive direction.

3. Work with community leaders to fund and support research on the fire resistance properties of hemp-lime as a building material.

Fire resistant building materials too often use chemicals that are harmful to our health and create harmful gasses when burning, which is an increasing danger to first responders.

There is a need for research into new materials that are less hazardous to health. Hemp-lime is a new “old” material that has a lot of history as a safe, clean building material.

4. Modern buildings are dealing with over \$1B of mold related lawsuits according to a statement from the April 2022 ICC meeting.

Work with community leaders to support research into the mold resistant properties of hemp-lime, as a building material.

Hemp-lime offers significant potential as part of a mold remediation solution because lime resists mold growth and hemp-lime has a unique ability to absorb, diffuse and release moisture, creating an environment that is more difficult for mold to grow.

5. Work with recognized industrial organizations to establish weights, measures, best practices and metrics for key performance indicators (KPIs).

Because there is a de minimis fraction of THC in the stalk of industrial hemp. Using science, there is justification to remove burdensome registration, fees and testing, unless it is justified based on scientific peer reviewed data.

Standardized data for cultivars, flower THC level and frequently asked questions provide science-based solutions that reduce the burden of compliance, create a more favorable environment for business, leading to increased industrial hemp market activity.

Conclusion:

China receives unfair subsidies. They are investing in hemp processing solutions because they don't have as many restrictions as US farmers. China is leading the world in hemp growth, processing and product innovation.

The rest of the world is embracing the potential of industrial hemp. Whereas, in the US, red tape is killing hemp crops and the US industrial hemp market is uncoordinated. The US could be leading the world, instead we're struggling in the weeds.

George Washington Carver is considered to be "the first and greatest chemurgist". The ingenuity of George Washington Carver, Tuskegee Scientist and Father of Chemurgy enabled The Ford Motor Company to use soybeans in gear shift knobs and horn buttons, and hemp for the body of the car.

Coordinated government support is critical to efficiently accelerate industrial hemp market activity. This will lead to jobs for the benefit of our communities. A project plan with Key Performance Indicators is needed.

The Build Green Now team is ready to project manage with Agricultural leaders and Market drivers for ensure success in the Green Solutions, Industrial Hemp market.

Please contact me or see our website for more information:

www.buildgreennow.net

Regards,



PS: This month we are starting a survey. Please advise if you want to receive the results:

[Buy Hemp Now - Stories from the Field: A Survey](#)

Notes About Samples:

- The carry bag is made from hemp. It was grown and made in another country.
- Enclosed in the hemp fabric bag is a hemp paper bag. It was grown and made in another country.
- The samples of fabric are hemp blends.
- The example of hemp plastics was made from hemp grown and milled in Indonesia.
- The market needs single use bags and plastic items. If we get backing and approvals today, it will take 2 years to get the industry up and running, with locally grown hemp.
- This is a picture of a retrofitted house - it has hemp-lime (hempcrete) in the walls for insulation. The hemp was grown and milled in France, and we had it shipped from Kingston NY for our project. In 2019, we could not find any hemp available in the US.



We have shown our house to many people. They are impressed with the fresh air and cozy atmosphere, the quiet and the consistent comfortable temperatures achieved in the house.

People are asking to participate in projects to learn about hemp processing, receive training and possibly convert derelict buildings of their own, using hemp.