



# Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

February 27, 2026

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
141 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bryan Steil  
1526 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Pocan  
1026 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Derrick Van Orden  
1513 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gwen Moore  
2252 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Scott Fitzgerald  
2444 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Glenn Grothman  
1211 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Tiffany  
451 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tony Wied  
424 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Duly Elected Members of Congress:

I write today to urge your immediate attention and action regarding the new federal hemp definition scheduled to take effect in November 2026. Without legislative modification, this change will have significant implications for Wisconsin hemp farmers, processors, retailers, and our broader economy.

Hemp-derived products currently support a growing sector of legitimate businesses across Wisconsin, employing nearly 3,500 employees and contributing meaningfully to local economies with over \$700 million in economic [production](#). Under the new federal definition, which would set the legal limit of THC in final hemp-derived cannabinoid products at 0.4 milligrams per container, many of these existing lawful products would be reclassified in a manner that effectively eliminates existing business models, forcing closures, layoffs, and lost investment.

The agricultural impacts are equally concerning. Farmers, who have been the backbone of Wisconsin's culture and economy for generations, must make planting decisions well in advance of each growing season, often committing seed, land, equipment, labor, and financing months before harvest. The growing of hemp has become a strong diversification option for Wisconsin farmers, and as of November 2025, Wisconsin had 470 federally licensed hemp producers. Regulatory uncertainty surrounding the definition of hemp undermines their

ability to plan responsibly and threatens to disrupt crop selection, with the potential to leave fields sitting idle for the 2026 season and beyond. Without timely federal legislative action, Wisconsin producers may be forced to abandon hemp cultivation altogether, resulting in lost income and diminished economic opportunities, especially in our rural communities. Our farmers already deal with enough, and the constant chaos and confusion out of D.C. caused by reckless trade wars and erratic tariff taxes continues to make an already strenuous job even harder. State and federal leadership must not turn its back on the farming communities and families who have long been, and always will be, the bedrock of our nation's continued success.

These impacts are further intensified by the fact that Wisconsin has not enacted legislation legalizing medical or recreational marijuana, despite multiple attempts by my administration to do so. While consumer demand for hemp-derived products remains strong, the absence of a legalized marijuana market in Wisconsin means that many of these products serve as lawful alternatives for Wisconsinites and an important source of revenue for in-state businesses. Restrictive changes to the hemp definition will only drive commerce for hemp-derived products across state lines, shifting jobs and tax revenue away from Wisconsin.

Due to the unique situation Wisconsin is left in, outlined above, I strongly believe federal legislation is needed to prevent the negative impacts of the new federal hemp definition. I respectfully request that you work with your congressional colleagues to pursue a legislative solution that maintains a workable, science-based hemp definition that prevents unnecessary economic harm. At the very least, I urge you to support federal legislation to delay the effective date of the new federal hemp definition by an additional two years, such as S. 3686, the Hemp Planting Predictability Act. A longer implementation timeline would provide farmers and their families and small businesses with the certainty and flexibility needed to adjust operations, make responsible planting decisions, and avoid abrupt economic disruptions. This is about preserving lawful agricultural production that supports our local farmers and producers, protecting small businesses, and ensuring regulatory clarity for an industry that Congress itself created through prior legislation.

Time is of the essence. Farmers, producers, and retailers need certainty now in order to make informed decisions for the 2026 growing season and beyond. I urge you to act promptly to protect Wisconsin's agricultural producers, small businesses, and workforce.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers  
Governor