



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

September 4, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 1409 (Wilk) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill 1409. SB 1409, authored by Senator Scott Wilk, would streamline the production and cultivation of industrial hemp.

RCRC is an association of thirty-five rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties. The issue of both hemp and cannabis production, and particularly those surrounding cultivation, continue to be of importance to RCRC's member counties.

Proposition 64 of 2016 sanctions the cultivation of industrial hemp and specifies certain procedures and requirements for cultivators. Growers of industrial hemp and seed breeders must register with the county agricultural commissioner, and industrial hemp may only be grown as a densely planted fiber or oilseed crop, or both, in minimum acreages.

SB 1409 would remove barriers to hemp cultivation by updating the definition of hemp, increasing access to hemp seed, and making appropriate revisions to the administrative provisions of the regulatory scheme. SB 1409 would streamline the production of industrial hemp in California and allow farmers the opportunity to diversify their farm operations. SB 1409 would also authorize CDFA to carry out, pursuant to the federal Agricultural Act of 2014, an agricultural pilot program for industrial hemp.

RCRC greatly appreciates amendments made in recent weeks which protect local land use authority for siting and permitting hemp by removing language that could have been interpreted to impair the plenary "police power" authority that local governments presently enjoy. We believe these amendments maintain the intent of Proposition 64 and preserves these powers to address community concerns and proper siting.

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

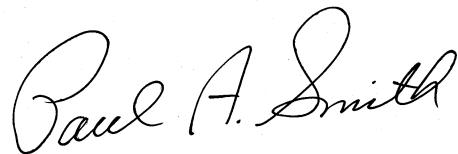
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Again, RCRC respectfully requests your signature on SB 1409.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Smith".

PAUL A. SMITH

Vice President Governmental Affairs

cc: The Honorable Scott Wilk, Member of the State Senate  
The Honorable Cathleen Galgiani, Member of the State Senate  
The Honorable Steven Glazer, Member of the State Senator  
The Honorable Scott Wiener, Member of the State Senator  
The Honorable Anna Caballero, Member of the State Assembly  
The Honorable Tom Lackey, Member of the State Assembly