



— State of —  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*

**John Hoeven**  
*Governor*

Karen P. Tandy, Administrator  
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration  
Lincoln Place-West  
700 Army Navy Drive  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Rm. 12060

Dear Ms. Tandy,

I am writing you today to request that your agency follow up on an application that was submitted in April of 2002. Dr. Burton Johnson, a researcher at North Dakota State University (NDSU) has put forth a formal application to receive permission to develop industrial hemp research plots. His application to the Drug Enforcement Administration included detailed plans for the security apparatus that is required.

Members of my staff have placed repeated calls to your agency to encourage that this application moves forward; and we have yet to see any progress. We take an active interest in seeing that research for industrial hemp takes place here in North Dakota, as the cultivation of industrial hemp would have a positive effect on farmers and businesses in our State. The economic benefits for farmers are numerous, it has been shown to increase yields of other crops when grown in rotation and it is a crop with a higher per acre gross than commodities such as canola or wheat.

While we are continually seeking ways to diversify and add value to our strong agricultural base in North Dakota, we also understand the DEA's resistance to the cultivation of hemp because of its similarity to illegal plants. However, we hope that you recognize that university research like NDSU plans to conduct could help uncover ways to more easily distinguish the different types of hemp.

Please move forward with this application. As the University of Hawaii has already had a similar application approved, we expect that all the issues of concern have been addressed. If there are issues that need to be resolved, Dr. Johnson would be happy to oblige, however, we have not received any communication of such concerns from your agency. The application number/code is D24219201H. Again, please help see that this moves along and let us know if there is anything we can do to assist in the process.

Sincerely

**John Hoeven**  
Governor

Cc: Dr. Burton Johnson, North Dakota State University  
600 E Boulevard Ave  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0001  
Phone: 701.328.2200  
Fax: 701.328.2205  
[www.discovernd.com](http://www.discovernd.com)