Hemp is a term used to classify varieties of cannabis that contain 0.3% or less THC content per dry weight as defined in the 2018 Farm Bill. Besides declassifying the crop as a controlled substance, the bill also recognized state departments of agriculture and tribes as the primary regulatory authority over hemp production in their jurisdictions.

NASDA adopted policy supporting the legalization and production of hemp for the first time in 2002, and since, NASDA have voted in favor of six NASDA policy items that support the growth of the industry and development of uniform standards for the regulation of this crop.

**STATES LEADING THE WAY**

So far 47 states enacted legislation that clears the way for them to establish a hemp program for their growers – Idaho, South Dakota and Mississippi are the exceptions.

In fact, most states where already allowing for the cultivation of hemp under the 2014 Farm Bill pilot program. The years of practical experience from the state departments of agriculture in regulating this crop will be crucial to inform the federal government on how to evolve and improve its regulatory framework.

Collaborative work amongst state, industry and federal agencies will be crucial for the growth of this industry.

**OUR ASK**

Hemp will only become economically viable to American farmers and ranchers in the United States, if a well-defined regulatory framework for its production and products is developed.

NASDA urges the federal agencies, Food and Drug Agency (FDA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Department of Justice (DOJ) to work closely with states, and other federal partners, to avoid potential conflicts that would negatively impact this emerging industry.