

Nandor Tanczos

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RE: Application A1039 - Low THC Hemp as a Food

My name is Nandor Tanczos. I am a co-founder of New Zealand's biggest hemp retailer, the Hemp Store Aotearoa. From 1999 – 2008 I was a Member of the New Zealand House of Representatives, during which time I introduced a Members Bill to amend the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 to allow the cultivation and production of industrial (low THC) hemp varieties. That bill did not proceed as the Parliament, with my support, deemed it preferable to provide for the licensing of industrial hemp through regulations as permitted in the Misuse of Drugs Act.

I make this representation in a personal capacity.

I support the preferred option as outlined in the conclusion of the Assessment Report 6 December 2011. This is, in my view, a sensible approach that allows the development of a wide range of hemp food products, balanced against the concern of enforcement agencies about confusion that might arise between low and high THC cannabis seeds.

The preferred option also accords with the objectives of the Authority as set out in s 18 (1) and (2) of the Foods Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991. The current regulations neither protect health and safety nor do they allow consumers an informed choice. They directly contradict the requirements for standards to be based on the best available scientific evidence, promote consistency with international food standards and support efficiency and competitiveness in the food industry.

I am aware of a number of businesspeople in New Zealand, including myself, who are eager to avail ourselves of the opportunities that an amendment to the the hemp food regulations will bring. I commend the Authority for the work done on the Assessment Report and look forward to a positive outcome for Australasian consumers and food producers.

Yours

Nandor Tanczos