

## Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Economic Viability of Industrial Hemp in the U.S.: A Review of Industrial Hemp Pilot Programs

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB, TB, SOR,) Report to Congress

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information  
USDA [ ] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency Contact: Kelly B. Maguire <kelly.b.maguire@usda.gov>

Subject of Review: The 2018 Farm Bill (the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018, Public Law 115-334) legalizes the cultivation, processing, marketing, and sale of industrial hemp under existing and forthcoming federal and state regulations. Section 7605 of the 2018 Farm Bill also amends 7 U.S.C. 5940 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to “conduct a study of agricultural pilot programs to determine the economic viability of the domestic production and sale of industrial hemp”, and provide a report on that study to Congress. The study should include “a review of each agricultural pilot program and any other agricultural or academic research relating to industrial hemp.” The “pilot programs” refer to experimental hemp demonstration projects authorized by the previous Farm Bill (The Agricultural Act of 2014, Public Law 113-79) as specified elsewhere in 7 U.S.C. 5940. This study documents many legal, economic, financial, and agronomic challenges that hemp producers and State governments faced in the pilot programs and are facing in transitioning from the pilot programs to economically viable commercial production in the longer term.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [ ] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers  
[ ] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 10/23/2019 Completed: 12/10/2019 Withdrawn: XX/XX/19

Number of Reviewers: [ ] 3 or fewer [x] 4 to 10 [ ] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [ ] Designated Outside Organization  
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [ ] Yes [X] No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:  
When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [ ] Yes [X] No  
Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [ ] Yes [X] No