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February 19, 2002

Mr. ~~Rob Mendez~~
~~5747 North Winthrop Avenue, Apt 501~~
Chicago, Illinois 60660

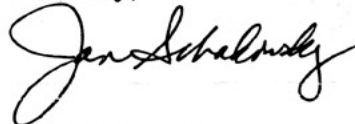
Dear Mr. ~~Mendez~~:

Thank you for contacting me to urge opposition to a proposed regulation by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) that would outlaw many hemp-based products. I appreciate hearing from you and I agree with you.

I share your concerns that the proposed regulation will negatively impact the enormous commercial uses of hemp-based products, including clothing, bracelets, wallets, food, fiber board, and beauty products and the potential benefits of hemp as an industrial product, useful for making fabrics, paper, animal feed, and fuel. I am concerned that the DEA is considering restricting the use of hemp-based products and criminalizing possession of these products. I support the resolution of the National Conference of State Legislators and will urge the DEA to revise its policies to be less restrictive and foster the development of domestic hemp production by American farmers and manufacturers.

Again, it was good to hear from you. Please contact me whenever I can be of assistance to you in the future.

Sincerely,



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress