

February 13, 2017

Ms. Amanda Reeder
Commission Counsel
Office of Administrative Hearings – Rules Division
6714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-6714

Re: Administrative Rules Waiver Request

Dear Ms. Reeder:

Per § 150B-21.1(a2), we hereby request a waiver from the 210-day limitation found in G.S. 150B-21.1(a1). The waiver request is for the following temporary rules: 02 NCAC 62 .0101 through 02 NCAC 62 .0109.

S.L. 2016-93, effective July 11, 2016, expanded the Industrial Hemp Commission in membership (Section 2) and gave the new body rule-making authority (Section 7) with the need to adopt temporary rules in order implement the new Industrial Hemp Pilot Program (Section 7 and 8).

The Commission members, appointed by the Governor, the President Pro Tempore Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Commissioner of Agriculture were not all appointed and cleared through the Ethics Commission until October 6th, 2016. Therefore, the Commission could not hold its first meeting until November 1st. Since November, the Commission has diligently worked to abide by the public meetings law, draft a whole set of rules for a new program, and follow the temporary rule-making process.

With the delay in having the Industrial Hemp Commission appointed, the Commission needed an extra 7 days past the 210 limit to file the final temporary rules. We respectfully ask that the Rules Review Commission grant this waiver request due to the circumstances beyond our control.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Melton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "T" and "M".

Tom Melton
Chair, Industrial Hemp Commission