

Hemp for Defeat

November 25, 2026

On December 11, 2026, Crescent Canna will go out of business, at least temporarily. Even though it has just recorded one of the most successful years of its seven-year life.

Tens of thousand of other producers and sellers of hemp products will also be kaput. And some 328,000 workers will lose their jobs.

Yes, this is about hemp — and about marijuana, which the law treats as a different thing entirely.

Botanically they're the same plant, *Cannabis sativa*; the difference is legal, not biological — hemp is simply cannabis containing no more than 0.3 percent delta-9 THC by dry weight, and anything above that threshold is treated as marijuana, the psychoactive drug. A number of states have legalized one or the other or both, but it was the federal Farm Bill of 2018 that federally authorized sale and use of hemp products.

The industry that rapidly resulted offers beverages, protein bars, capsules, baked goods, roll-ons, and many other hemp-derived products.

People use marijuana to get high — and, increasingly, both marijuana and hemp derivatives to ease pain and nausea. Much of the medicinal interest centers not on THC but on cannabidiol, or CBD, a non-intoxicating compound abundant in hemp, which has shown real promise against chronic pain and certain seizure disorders.

But in some quarters, any legal use of these plants in any form is discomfiture-inducing. Such discomfiture has apparentlymotivated lawmakers to insert provisions into a 2025 appropriations bill to ban the vast majority of existing hemp products by the end of 2026.

In response to many protests, Congress extended the originally announced deadline, though not by much. The new doomsday, December 11, comes just in time for the Christmas season.

Crescent Canna marketer David Reich expects that if the current Congress fails to reverse itself, the new Congress of 2027 will re-legalize the industry. But only after much damage has been done. Much of it irreversible.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.