

2026 RECESS PACKET



The following outlines ASIGA's 2026 policy priority for the August district work period. Our singular focus is striking Section 781(1)(C)(i), a provision that would classify hemp seed as a DEA Schedule I controlled substance based on the chemistry of its parent plant rather than the seed itself.



**BEAT THE
NOV. 12 DEADLINE**



**STRIKE
§781(1)(C)(i)**



**PROTECT U.S.
COMPETITIVENESS**



1. SEEDS DO NOT CONTAIN THC.

Cannabinoid biosynthesis happens only in glandular trichomes, tissue that seeds do not have. Regulating seed by the chemistry of its parent plant has no precedent anywhere in U.S. agricultural law.



2. THE COMPLIANCE STANDARD CANNOT BE MET.

There is no specified testing protocol, no responsible party, and no transition path for seed already in lawful commerce. USDA has issued no implementing guidance.



3. AMERICA WILL LOSE THE GENETICS RACE.

No major trading partner regulates seed this way. China already controls 35 to 40 percent of the global hemp market and stands to gain the rest if U.S. breeders are sidelined.



4. LEGACY SEED BANKS ARE AT RISK.

Tens of thousands of seed accessions acquired lawfully since 2018 could become federally criminalized overnight, with no statutory safe harbor for material already in lawful commerce.

THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF RECESS ENGAGEMENT

DO ✓

- Keep it to the seed issue. Lead with the science: seeds do not contain THC.
- Bring a one-pager or leave-behind. Staff remember what they can hold onto.
- Mention the November 12, 2026 deadline by name. Urgency is your friend.
- Thank the member or staffer for their time, even if the meeting is brief.
- Follow up within 48 hours with a short thank-you note and the one-pager attached.
- Tell Novel Strategies what happened, even informally. We track every touchpoint.
- Stay constructive and factual, even with skeptical offices.

DON'T ✗

- Wander into the broader cannabis or CBD product debate. That is a different fight.
- Show up empty-handed, expecting the member to remember verbal details later.
- Assume staff already know the deadline. Many do not. Say it out loud, every time.
- Treat district staff as a lesser audience. They write the memo that reaches the boss.
- Let the conversation end with no follow-up. Momentum dies in silence.
- Assume someone else will report it. If you do not tell us, we will not know it happened.
- Get drawn into a partisan or emotional debate. This issue is not partisan. Keep it that way.

HOW TO SCHEDULE A MEETING

Each August, Congress goes into recess, often called the district work period. Members of the House and Senate leave Washington, D.C., and return home to meet with constituents. This is the single best window all year to reach your lawmakers face-to-face. Below is a quick guide to scheduling a meeting with your Senator or Representative.

INFORMATION TO KNOW BEFORE SCHEDULING A MEETING

Typical Staff Roles:

- **Chief of Staff:** advises on politics and manages staff
- **Scheduler:** manages the calendar and meeting requests
- **Legislative Director:** legislation and policy expert
- **Communications Director:** manages press and public messaging
- **Legislative Assistant:** manages 3-5 specific subject areas
- **Staff Assistant:** handles general requests and office reception

Meetings with any team member are valuable. Senators have multiple offices. Members and staff get busy quickly during recess, so be flexible and patient.



YOUR 60-SECOND TALKING POINT

Hemp seed does not contain THC.

Starting November 12, 2026, a provision buried in last year's appropriations bill will treat seed like a Schedule I drug based on the parent plant, not the seed itself.

There is no way to comply, and American seed companies and farmers will lose ground to China and Canada unless Congress strikes Section 781(1)(C)(i) before the deadline.



STEPS TO SUCCESS

1. Identify your two Senators and your House Representative.

Find your Senators based on your state, and find your Representative by entering your zip code at the top right corner of www.house.gov.

2. Request a meeting by calling their home state district office.

This information is on the Member of Congress's website.

- Indicate that you are a constituent in the area the Member represents, an ASIGA member, and the topic you would like to discuss.
- If the Senator or Representative is unavailable, request a meeting with a member of their staff. Staffers often have a deep understanding of seed and agriculture issues and communicate regularly with the Member. These meetings are worthwhile.

3. Go to each member's website and find their state office address and phone numbers, often listed at the bottom of the page.

4. Draft a concise summary of your meeting request, including date, time, your seed company or organization name, and purpose.

5. If available, fill out the website's scheduling request form.

6. Call the state office and ask to schedule a meeting.

7. Use your prepared draft to answer any questions the scheduler may ask.

8. You will be referred to either a staffer's direct line or given an email to contact.

9. Ask for the scheduler's or staff member's contact information.

10. Email the recommended staffer to schedule the meeting, including your request details, your organization's information, and the topic for discussion.

11. Follow up with your meeting attendees afterward with a thank you and any updates on the topics discussed.

- Be sure to indicate who you are and your affiliation with ASIGA, the American Seed Innovation & Growth Alliance.
- You may be directed to email an office scheduler or staff member directly, or to fill out a meeting request form online.
- Follow up directly with a phone call to confirm the scheduler has received your request.
- Share your results. We love seeing our members in action. Take a picture and tag ASIGA. Don't forget to tag the legislator, too.

MEETING WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

A Guide to Your District Office Visit

Meeting with your Congressional delegation is key to making sure they understand the issues important to American seed innovation. Even if you are not a policy expert or have never spoken with an elected official before, you can hold an effective meeting with your Senators and Representative or their staff. As a constituent, you are exactly the voice they want to hear. By making an introduction and leaving behind information, you are taking the first step in building an important relationship.

BEFORE THE MEETING

Decide who needs to be there. Consider including fellow seed company representatives, breeders, or hemp farmers who can speak to how the seed exclusion affects their operations directly.

Prepare for your meeting. Review ASIGA's policy priorities and gather relevant data from your own operation. Numbers matter here. Bring a printed copy of the materials you plan to leave behind.



MEETING DAY

Be prepared, be on time, and be flexible. Most meetings last about 15 to 25 minutes, but can run shorter or longer depending on the office's schedule. Expect a meeting with a Member of Congress to be shorter than a meeting with a staffer.

A sample meeting agenda you may find helpful:

- Introduce yourself, your organization, your affiliation with ASIGA, and where you are located. Share ASIGA's one-pager.
- Explain that this is a seed and agricultural science issue, not a cannabis policy debate, and walk through why seed cannot comply with the November 12, 2026, standard.
- Ask for Washington, DC office contacts so you can establish a relationship in Washington as well as at home.



AFTER THE MEETING

1. Thank the legislator and/or staff member with an email promptly after your meeting.
2. If you took a picture, post it and tag ASIGA. Don't forget to tag the legislator, too.
3. Add the legislator and/or staff to your contact list and invite them to your next event.
4. Tell Novel Strategies how it went so we can track every touchpoint across the coalition.

