

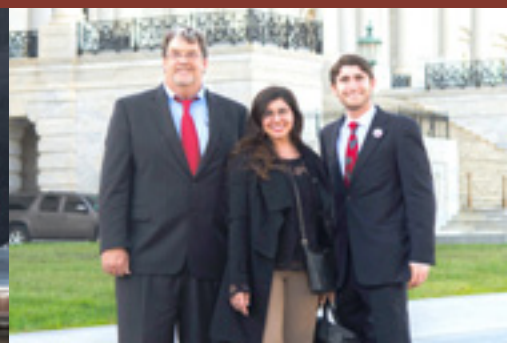


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Vote Hemp™



2016 Hemp Update



Congressional Update



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NEW Industrial Hemp Farming Act cosponsors

New Senate Cosponsors

Sen. Gardner (R-CO), Sen. Daines (R-MT), Sen. Franken (D-MN), Sen. Bennet (D-CO), Sen. Tester (D-MT) & Sen. Baldwin (D-WI)

New House Cosponsors

Rep. Titus (D-NV), Rep. Huffman (D-CA), Rep. Swalwell (D-CA), Rep. Sanford (R-SC), Rep. Whitfield (R-KY), Rep. Benishek (R-MI), Rep. Connelly (D-VA), Rep. Perlmutter (D-CO), Rep. Speier (D-CA), Rep. Walden (R-OR), Rep. Courtney (D-CT), Rep. Lowey (D-NY), Rep. Coffman (R-CO), Rep. Ellmers (R-NC), Rep. Tipton (R-CO), Rep. Davis (R-IL), Rep. Hurt (R-VA) & Rep. Scott (D-VA)



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H.R. 525 Bipartisan Cosponsors

House Cosponsors

H.R. 525 introduced by Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY)

- 40 Democrats
- 25 Republicans



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S. 134 Bipartisan Cosponsors

Senate Cosponsors

S. 134 introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) & Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

- 5 Democrats
- 4 Republicans
- 1 Independent



289

House members support hemp research

By way of the Massie hemp amendment to the FY 16 CJS Appropriations Act, this is a benchmark number of House members who support hemp's progress in the next year.



Hemp as an Agricultural Commodity

Renée Johnson, Specialist in Agricultural Policy

CRS RL32725

February 2, 2015

Summary: Industrial hemp is an agricultural commodity that is cultivated for use in the production of a wide range of products, including foods and beverages, cosmetics and personal care products, and nutritional supplements, as well as fabrics and textiles, yarns and spun fibers, paper, construction and insulation materials, and other manufactured goods. Hemp can be grown as a fiber, seed, or other dual-purpose crop. Some estimate that the global market for hemp consists of more than 25,000 products. Precise data are not available on the size of the U.S. market for hemp-based products, but current industry estimates report annual sales at more than \$580 million annually.

Hemp Amendments included in FY2016 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

McConnell Amendment to Omnibus

SEC. 739.

None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used—(1) in contravention of section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 5940); or (2) to prohibit the transportation, processing, sale, or use of industrial hemp that is grown or cultivated in accordance with subsection section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, within or outside the State in which the industrial hemp is grown or cultivated.

Massie Amendment to the CJS Appropriations Act

SEC. 541.

None of the funds made available under this Act may be used in contravention of section 7606 ("Legitimacy of Industrial Hemp Research") of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79) by the Department of Justice or the Drug Enforcement Administration.

USDA Hemp Research Clarification Letter

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2015

Tom Vilsack
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

As you know, industrial hemp research pilot programs were authorized under the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79) when certain conditions are met. Twenty-six states have been authorizing industrial hemp pilot studies and/or production as made legal by the Agricultural Act of 2014. However, it is our understanding that researchers participating in the industrial hemp pilot programs have received conflicting information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on whether these programs are eligible for federal grant awards from existing USDA funds. Therefore, we are writing to request that you clarify your agency's authority to award federal funds to eligible industrial hemp research programs.

Hemp is prized throughout the world for its array of industrial uses. Currently, 30 countries grow hemp and the U.S. alone imported millions of dollars of hemp products last year. This presents a real opportunity for farmers and researchers throughout the United States. A 2014 report done by the Congressional Research Service documents the growing market for hemp products and its potential to be an economic driver for our country. Our universities and state departments of agriculture are ready to grow and cultivate this agricultural product, according to current federal and state laws.

Since the 1930s, your agency has supported research on industrial uses of commodities. The Critical Agricultural Materials Act of 1984 and various funding bills have supported funding for the research and development of alternative crops in state laboratories and at your agency. Furthermore, the Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETEPA, 7 U.S.C. §3118a(i)) authorizes the USDA to award competitive grants for the development of new commercial products derived from natural plant material for industrial, medical, and agricultural applications.

It appears that USDA has the authority to award competitive grants for the development of industrial hemp. Nevertheless, it seems the USDA has provided conflicting information regarding whether the agency is willing to exercise its authority to award existing federal grant dollars for the research of industrial hemp. It is our understanding that some seeking clarity from the USDA on this issue have been told by USDA officials "it is not worth it to apply," while on the other hand, an internal USDA memo dated December 23, 2014 seems to indicate that the USDA is supportive of industrial hemp research and therefore may be willing to award funds for that purpose. The memo from National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Director Sonny Ramoanewy to Southern Association of Agriculture Experiment Station Directors Executive

Director Eric Young states: "NIFA supports research on the cultivation of industrial hemp and on cultivated hemp provided such cultivation complies with Section 7606 [of the Agricultural Act]."

Due to this lack of consistency, researchers are reluctant to apply for federal funds because of the large amount of time, effort, and cost that goes into any grant application.

To help provide our constituents with information, we would appreciate answers to the following questions:

1. Does USDA interpret current law as providing the agency with the authority to award existing and competitive federal funds for the research of industrial hemp?
2. If the answer is yes, what steps is USDA taking to disseminate that information and work with interested parties in the competitive grant process?

We look forward to expedient responses to our questions. Thank you in advance for your review of this inquiry.

Sincerely,


Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senator


Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator


Jeff Polis
Member of Congress


Thomas Massie
Member of Congress


Al Franken
U.S. Senator


Michael F. Bennet
U.S. Senator


Rand Paul
U.S. Senator


Lamar Alexander
U.S. Senator

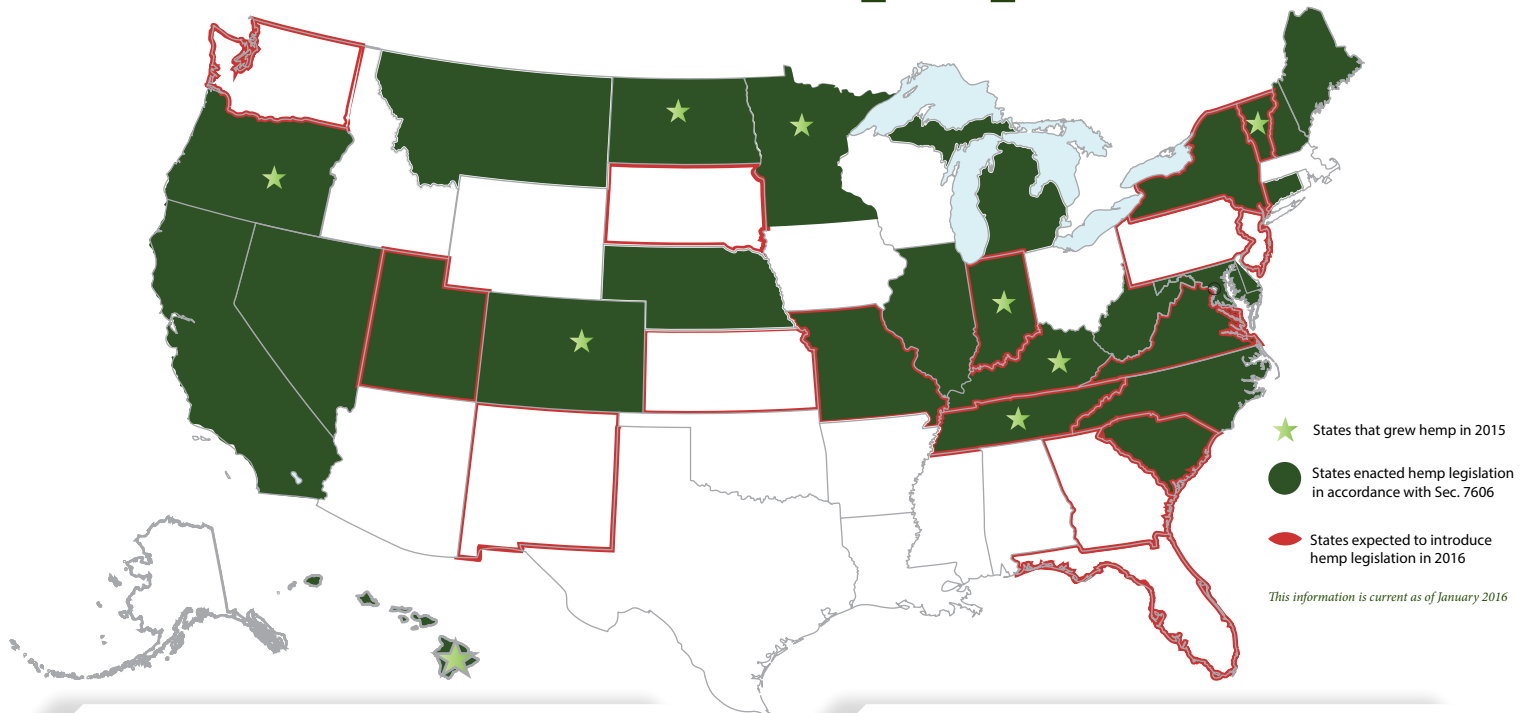

Mark R. Warner
U.S. Senator

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Complete list of Signatories: Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO), Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT), Sen. Al Franken (D-MN), Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO), Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI), Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA), and Reps. Jared Polis (D-CO), Thomas Massie (R-KY), Andy Barr (R-KY), Rod Blum (R-IA), Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Steve Cohen (D-TN), Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Rodney Davis (R-IL), Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Diana DeGette (D-CO), Suzan DelBene (D-WA), Sam Farr (D-CA), Morgan Griffith (R-VA), Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), Brett Guthrie (R-KY), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Ted Lieu (D-CA), Tom McClintock (R-CA), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Beto O'Rourke (D-TX), Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), Chellie Pingree (D-ME), Mark Pocan (D-WI), Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), Tim Ryan (D-OH), Kurt Schrader (D-OR), Marlin Stutzman (R-IN), Eric Swalwell (D-CA), Mark Takai (D-HI), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Peter Welch (D-VT), Ed Whitfield (R-KY), John Yarmuth (D-KY), and Ryan Zinke (R-MT).

National Hemp Update



Increased Support in Congress for Industrial Hemp

The 2014 Farm Bill included Sec. 7606, *The Legitimacy of Industrial Hemp Research*, defining industrial hemp and allowing for licensed pilot programs; now underway in nine (9) states. Since then, Congress has doubled-down with strong bipartisan support for industrial hemp farming in the U.S., passing FY 16 CJS appropriations amendments 289-132 and 282-146 in the House and by a voice vote in the Senate Appropriations Committee to stop the DEA and Dept. of Justice from using funds in the contravention of Sec. 7606 hemp programs. Sen. McConnell (R-KY) added language to FY 16 Omnibus Appropriations bill which expands protection for transportation, processing, sale and use of hemp produced in legal hemp states in accordance with Sec. 7606. McConnell's language was included in the FY16 Omnibus Appropriations bill, which passed on 12/22/15 and prohibits the use of funds by any agency including the DEA in contravention of Sec. 7606.

States Rights Around the Country

Since the passage of *The Legitimacy of Industrial Hemp Research* in the Farm Bill, many new states have passed hemp legislation. But because of current federal laws, these states must operate in a legal grey area of uncertainty, where importing viable hemp seed still carries risk of interference from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) & U.S. Customs. In June 2014, the DEA seized over 280 pounds of hemp seed purchased by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. Further federal action, such as the passage of the Industrial Hemp Farming Act (H.R. 525 & S. 134), is still needed to provide certainty to American farmers and businesses, and for investment in this re-emerging industry.

2015 Crop Report

Colorado - State Licensed & Academic Research

166 Registrants
3,657 acres approved
2,300 acres harvested (estimate by CO Dept. of Ag)
570,980 sf. of licensed indoor cultivation (some was replanted outdoors)
Participating Universities: Colorado State University

Hawaii - Academic Research Only

Participating Universities: University of Hawaii

Kentucky - Pilot Programs & Academic Research

127 Registrants
1,742 acres approved
922.31 acres planted
Participating Universities: University of Kentucky, Murray State, Eastern Kentucky University, Western Kentucky University, St. Catharine's College, University of Pikeville

Indiana - Academic Research Only

4 acres approved
4 acres planted
Participating Universities: Purdue

Oregon - State Licensed & Academic Research

11 Registrants
50 acres or less planted
Participating Universities: Oregon State University

Tennessee - Pilot Programs & Academic Research

41 Registrants
1,400 acres approved
700 acres planted
Participating Universities: Middle Tennessee State University, University of Tennessee

Vermont - State Registration & Academic Research

23 Registrants
20 acres approved
Participating Universities: University of Vermont



This photo of Red Petiole grown at University of Kentucky's Spindletop Farms is made possible by SEC. 7606 of the Farm Bill.

State Hemp Legislation

ALASKA

SB 8

Introduced:

Summary:

Status:

HEMP LEGISLATION IN 2015

1/21/15 by Sen. Ellis

In accordance with Sec. 7606

Judiciary Committee

ARIZONA

SB 1225

Introduced:

Summary:

Status:

HEMP LEGISLATION IN 2015

1/27/15 by Sen. Pancrazi

Creates study committee

Passed Senate 3/5/15

CALIFORNIA

HEMP RESEARCH IS LEGAL



Colorado State University



*University of Hawaii
60 day old hemp crop - July 2015*

HAWAII

HB 508 SD2

Introduced:

Summary:

HEMP RESEARCH IS LEGAL

1/26/15 by Rep. Onishi

In accordance with Sec. 7606

ILLINOIS

HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL



*Purdue University
hemp field day*

COLORADO

HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL

CONNECTICUT HEMP STUDY IS LEGAL

HR 5780

Introduced:

Summary:

Status:

1/12/15 by Rep. Ziobron & Rep. Carter

In accordance with Sec. 7606

Governor signed 7/2/15

DELAWARE

HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL

FLORIDA

SB 554

Introduced:

Summary:

HEMP LEGISLATION PENDING

10/23/15 by Sen. Clemens

In accordance with Sec. 7606

SB 1608 | HB 1257

Introduced:

Summary:

1/8/16 by Sen. Montford & Rep. Dudley

Authorizes FAMU to develop
Hemp Research Compliance Program & Rulemaking

GEORGIA -

HB704

Introduced:

Summary:

HEMP LEGISLATION PENDING

4/2/15 by Rep. Pezold

In accordance with Sec. 7606

INDIANA

HB 1181

Introduced:

Summary:

Status:

HEMP RESEARCH IS LEGAL

1/12/15 by Rep. Lehe

Refines policies & creates study
committee for hemp extract.Governor signed 5/4/15

IOWA

SSB 1260

Introduced:

Summary:

Status:

HEMP LEGISLATION IN 2015

3/4/15 by Sen. Seng

Study legislation

No Action

HF 470

Introduced:

Summary:

Status:

3/4/15 by Rep. Forbes

Hemp production

No Action

KANSAS

Note:

HEMP LEGISLATION PENDING
Rep. Dove expected to introduce bill

*University of Kentucky
hemp field day*

KENTUCKY**HEMP RESEARCH &
PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL****MAINE**

LD 4

Introduced:
Summary:**HEMP RESEARCH IS LEGAL**1/7/15 by Rep. Sanderson
Amends MRSA §2231 to
promote industrial hemp
Senate overrides Governor's
veto 6/16/15. Became Law 6/16/15**MARYLAND****HEMP IS ILLEGAL UNTIL
INDUSTRIAL HEMP FARMING ACT
PASSES**

HB 803

Introduced:
Summary:
Status:2/13/15
Hemp production
Governor signed 5/12/15**MICHIGAN****HEMP RESEARCH IS LEGAL**

University of Minnesota

MINNESOTA**HEMP RESEARCH &
PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL**

Omnibus Agriculture, Environment

& Natural Resources Appropriations Bill

Introduced:

6/12/15 by Sen. Tomassoni;
Representatives McNamara, Hamilton
and Davids

Summary:

In accordance with Sec. 7606

Status:

Governor signed 6/13/15

HF 14

Introduced:

6/12/15 by Rep. Hamilton

Summary:

Amends for policy & changes

Status:

Introduced for 2016

MISSOURI

HJR 57

Introduced:

12/1/15 by Rep. Ellington

Summary:

Constitutional Amendment to enact hemp legislation
regarding the cultivation, processing & sale of
industrial hemp by 7/1/19

HB 2038

Introduced:

1/7/16 by Rep. Curtman

Summary:

Allows Dept. of Ag to license hemp growers
& criminalizes unlicensed hemp growers**MONTANA****HEMP RESEARCH &
PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL****NEBRASKA****HEMP RESEARCH &
PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL****NEVADA****HEMP RESEARCH &
PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL**

SB 305

Introduced:

3/16/15 by Segerblom

Summary:

In accordance with Sec. 7606

Status:

Governor signed 6/4/15**NEW HAMPSHIRE****HEMP STUDY IS LEGAL****NEW JERSEY**

Note:

HEMP LEGISLATION PENDING
Assemblyman Gusciora expected to
introduce hemp bill.**NEW MEXICO**

SB 3 | HB 148

Introduced:

12/15/15 by Sen. McSorley & Rep. Gomez

Summary:

Authorizes hemp research within
the scope of the Farm Bill**NEW YORK**

A 8334

Introduced:

HEMP RESEARCH IS LEGAL

1/6/16 by Rep. Lupardo

Summary:

Amends law to allow for hemp cultivation
to be within the scope of the Farm Bill**NORTH CAROLINA****HEMP RESEARCH &
PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL**

SB 313

Introduced:

3/17/15 by Senator's Bingham; Hise & Waddell

Summary:

Creates Hemp Commission to establish &
oversee a growers licensing program, which
must be funded & also decriminalizes the
production and use of industrial hemp upon the
completion of rulemaking by the Board of Ag.

Status:

Became law without signature 10/31/15



*North Dakota State University
hemp field day*



*Middle Tennessee State University
hemp field day*

NORTH DAKOTA

HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL

SB 2145

Introduced: 1/8/15 by Senator's Davison; Luick;
Oban & Poolman

Summary: Background check for licensing

Status: **Governor signed 4/1/15**

OREGON

HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL

PENNSYLVANIA

HEMP LEGISLATION PENDING

SB 50

Introduced: 2/12/15 by Sen. Schwank &
Sen. Folmer

Summary: Est. a board to act in accordance
with SEC 7606

Status: Referred to Appropriations

RHODE ISLAND

HEMP LEGISLATION IN 2015

HB 6177 | SB 990

Introduced: 5/7/15 by Rep. Keable &
Sosnowski

Summary: Provides a definition for "CBD-Rich
Hemp Oil" to legalize cannabidiol
and industrial hemp

Status: Passed House 6/18/15

SOUTH CAROLINA

HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL

H 4340

Introduced: 6/4/15 by Rep. Home & Rep. King

Summary: Amends Chp. 55, Title 46

Status: Referred to Medical, Military, Public
& Municipal Affairs committee

SOUTH DAKOTA

HEMP LEGISLATION PENDING

HB 1054

Introduced: 1/15/16 by Rep. Verchio

Summary: Authorizes the production & sale of hemp

Status: Passed House Ag & Natural Resources Committee

TENNESSEE

HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL

SB 1611

Introduced: 1/13/16 by Sen. Niceley

Summary: Designates that the Dept. of Ag license processing
facilities & any state 4-year university/college to
develop foundation hemp seed for
Federal Seed Act Certification

TEXAS

HB 557

Introduced:

Summary:

Status:

HEMP LEGISLATION IN 2015

12/19/14 by Rep. Farias

Allows academic institutions to
participate in accordance with
Sec. 7606

Place on General Calendar - No Action

UTAH

HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL

VERMONT

HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL

VIRGINIA

HB 1277

Introduced:

Summary:

Status:

HEMP RESEARCH IS LEGAL

7/21/14 by Del. Yost

Academic pilot program

Governor signed 3/17/15

HB 699

Introduced:

Summary:

1/11/16 by Rep. Patron & Rep. Pogge

Authorizes hemp research within the
scope of the Farm Bill

WASHINGTON

HEMP LEGISLATION PENDING

SB 6206

Introduced:

Summary:

1/12/16 by Sen. Hasegawa

Designates Washington State University
as the research institution authorized to
conduct a full feasibility study

SB 5012

Introduced:

Summary:

Status:

12/15/14 by Sen. Hatfield &
Sen. Honeyfield

Authorizes the growing of
industrial hemp in the state by
adding to Title 15 RCW 69.50.204
By resolution, reintroduced &
retained in present status, 6/28/15

WEST VIRGINIA

HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL

WISCONSIN

AB 215

Introduced:

Summary:

Status:

HEMP LEGISLATION IN 2015

5/14/15 by Rep. Cosdine

In accordance with Sec. 7606

Referred to State Affairs &
Government Operations Committee



President
Eric Steenstra
eric@votehemp.com
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