

## STAKEHOLDER SIGN-ON LETTER FOR NEW CROPS AND JOB CREATION

To sign on to this letter, please go to <http://votehemp.com/support> or send an email indicating your support to [outreach@votehemp.com](mailto:outreach@votehemp.com)

**Dear Member of Congress,**

We are writing to ask you to join the 38 House sponsors and 5 Senate sponsors of the Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2013, H.R. 525 and S. 359. The bipartisan support for these bills spans the country – from Florida to California to Oregon to Maine and throughout the heartland. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has co-sponsored the bill introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR). Nineteen states have enacted laws to authorize hemp cultivation and processing, and bills are pending in 16 other states.

The Industrial Hemp Farming Act would authorize American farmers to once again grow non-drug industrial hemp if permitted by their state law. This bill reverses the erroneous determination of the Drug Enforcement Administration that hemp – an ancient crop valuable for its fiber, nutritious seed, and versatile oil – is marijuana and banned by the Controlled Substances Act of 1970. The bill would define industrial hemp in conformity with global standards, and authorizes states to develop regulations for cultivation setting a strict standard of a maximum of 0.3% THC content. Nine states have passed laws to regulate hemp farming along these lines.

Hemp can be used in thousands of products, and the market for hemp products is rapidly growing. SPINS sales data showed a 16.5% increase in U.S. hemp food and body care products sales in 2012 over 2011. Estimating sales of all hemp products, including clothing, auto parts, building materials, and twine, the hemp industry generated nearly \$500 million in retail sales in the U.S. in 2012. **Unfortunately, all of the hemp used in these products had to be imported from Canada, China, or Europe.** DEA's antiquated policy bars American farmers from supplying this growing domestic and world market and forces American manufacturers to import hemp raw materials.

We strongly urge you to support American farmers who want to grow this important crop and compete in the global market for this vital commodity. Please join the bipartisan cosponsors of the Industrial Hemp Farming Act.

Sincerely yours,

The Undersigned