

DONNY YOUNGBLOOD
Sheriff-Coroner
Public Administrator

SHERIFF'S OFFICE
COUNTY OF KERN

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1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

July 21, 2011

Senator Mark Leno
State Capitol Building, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Senate Bill 676 (Leno) California Industrial Hemp Farming Act – Support

Dear Senator Leno:

As Sheriff of Kern County, I am writing in support of your measure SB 676, which would create a pilot program to enable California farmers to grow industrial hemp to serve the growing market for hemp-based consumer products.

The bill will provide an additional crop option for Kern County farmers and other agricultural growers in California, while providing safeguards to ensure full transparency and oversight in the production process. The requirements for crops to be a minimum of five acres with identifiable signage, and requirements for lab analysis reports indicating the THC content in the crops will assist law enforcement in clearly distinguishing the crop from marijuana.

Given the large demand for industrial hemp products, industrial hemp production presents a strong economic prospect for our farmers and the community. During these especially difficult economic times, I support SB 676 as an important step toward creating new economic opportunities in agriculture and job creation.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Donny Youngblood
County of Kern

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PLEASE ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE SHERIFF