

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2009

Let American Farmers Compete in a Booming Global Market
Cosponsor the Industrial Hemp Farming Act

Dear Colleague,

We invite you to cosponsor the Industrial Hemp Farming Act. The legislation allows American farmers to grow hemp to the extent allowed under state laws, repealing a provision in federal law that makes the United States the only industrialized nation where farmers are prohibited from competing in the booming industrial hemp market. The legislation is identical to HR 1009 introduced in the 110th Congress.

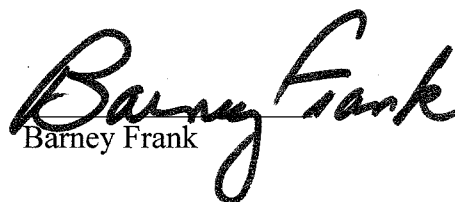
In recent years, industrial hemp has been put to many popular uses. Grocery stores sell hemp seeds and oil, as well as food products containing hemp seeds and oil. Industrial hemp is also included in consumer products such as paper, cloths, cosmetics, and carpet. One of the more innovative recent uses of industrial hemp is in the door panels of about 1.5 million cars. Hemp has even been used in alternative automobile fuel. Nevertheless, under federal law, all industrial hemp included in products sold in the United States must be imported instead of grown by American farmers.

Industrial hemp was grown legally in the United States for most of our nation's history. In fact, during World War II, the federal government encouraged industrial hemp farming to help the war effort. Since 1970, the federal Controlled Substances Act's inclusion of industrial hemp in the definition of marijuana has prohibited American farmers from growing industrial hemp despite the fact that industrial hemp has such a low content of THC (the psychoactive chemical in the related marijuana plant) that nobody can be psychologically affected by consuming industrial hemp. Federal law concedes the safety of industrial hemp by allowing it to be legally imported as food.

Please stand up for American farmers by cosponsoring the Industrial Hemp Farming Act. To become an original cosponsor, please contact Adam in Rep. Ron Paul's office at 5-2831 or Pilar at 5-5931 in Rep. Barney Frank's office.

Sincerely,


Ron Paul


Barney Frank