

A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to revise federal policy to allow state regulated development of industrial hemp production and processing.

WHEREAS, the financial health of Kentucky's agricultural community has been weakened by declining sales of the state's foremost cash crop, tobacco; and

WHEREAS, while tobacco will remain an important crop for Kentucky farmers, nevertheless, agricultural leaders have been diligent in exploring other farm crops that hold promise for Kentucky producers; and

WHEREAS, industrial hemp shows promise as a cash crop because of Kentucky's climate, soil conditions, farm expertise, and past experience in growing the crop; and

WHEREAS, present federal regulations written to stop the growing of marijuana make research into the development of industrial hemp production and processing prohibitively expensive and growing industrial hemp outside of the federal regulatory program illegal; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth, with the assistance of the United States Department of Agriculture, could regulate the production and processing of industrial hemp in a less restrictive way yet meet the concerns of drug enforcement agencies;

NOW, THEREFORE,

***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

Section 1. The General Assembly urges and requests the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to revise its policies regarding industrial hemp to be less restrictive and to allow states, with the assistance of the United States Department of Agriculture, to establish state regulatory programs that allow the development of industrial hemp production and processing.

Section 2. The General Assembly urges the members of the state's Congressional Delegation to request the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to carry out this revision of policy as quickly as possible.

Section 3. The clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to send copies of this Resolution to the Director of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, and to the members of Kentucky's Congressional Delegation.