

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF STATE INCENTIVES FOR COMMERCIALIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP.

WHEREAS, hemp is an ancient source of material for fiber and other commercial products; and

WHEREAS, hemp requires less water than conventional crops; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a critical component of New Mexico's economy; and

WHEREAS, the world market for products derived from industrial hemp is a potential opportunity for New Mexico agricultural producers to diversify and augment the state's agricultural economy; and

WHEREAS, economic conditions require innovation and experimentation with alternative crops and value-added technologies; and

WHEREAS, legal, technical and financial obstacles must be overcome if industrial hemp is to become a viable commercial crop in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the federal drug enforcement agency has even recognized, in an interpretive rule published in the federal register, that "exempt from control [pursuant to the Controlled Substances Act] certain THC-containing industrial

products, processed plant materials used to make such products, and animal feed mixtures; provided [that] such products, materials and feed mixtures are made from those portions of the cannabis plant that are excluded from the definition of marijuana and are not used or intended for use for human consumption";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico department of agriculture be requested to investigate the feasibility of state incentives for the commercialization of industrial hemp in New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico department of agriculture report its findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim committee of the legislature by December 1, 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congress be requested to acknowledge the difference between marijuana and industrial hemp and to clearly legalize the commercial production of industrial hemp; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the director of the New Mexico department of agriculture and to the New Mexico congressional delegation.