

HOUSE MEMORIAL 49
48 TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY
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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS TO STUDY THE VIABILITY OF A LEGAL HEMP INDUSTRY; URGING CONGRESS TO RECOGNIZE INDUSTRIAL HEMP AS A VALUABLE AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY AND TO TAKE CERTAIN OTHER ACTIONS.

WHEREAS, industrial hemp refers to varieties of Cannabis that have less than three-tenths of one percent tetrahydrocannabinol, are genetically distinct from drug varieties of Cannabis and are cultivated exclusively for fiber, stalk and seed; and

WHEREAS, industrial hemp should not be confused with varieties of Cannabis that have high concentrations of tetrahydrocannabinol and are commonly referred to as marijuana; and

WHEREAS, industrial hemp is commercially produced in more than thirty nations, including Canada, Great Britain, France, Germany, Romania, Australia and China; and

WHEREAS, annual sales of hemp food in the United States are growing rapidly and industrial hemp seed prices are good and yield is medium to high; and

WHEREAS, in Canada, without irrigation, eight hundred pounds of seed per acre is average, and with irrigation, yields may increase to one thousand six hundred to two thousand pounds per acre; and

WHEREAS, industrial hemp is a high-value, low-input crop that is not genetically modified, requires no pesticides, can be dryland farmed and uses less fertilizer than wheat and corn; and

WHEREAS, many farmers view industrial hemp as a versatile and valuable agricultural commodity that will have long-term economic benefits to the farmers who produce the hemp and the persons who use hemp in the production of twine, rope, textiles, paper products, building materials, including plywood, concrete, insulation and roofing, animal bedding, automobile parts, plastics, fuel, including biodiesel and butanol, cosmetics, foods, nutritional supplements, body care products and more;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico state university board of regents be urged to undertake an in-depth economic analysis study that will address the viability of a legal hemp industry in New Mexico. The New Mexico state university board of regents is urged to review the long-term impacts of a permitted hemp industry and the costs of establishing proper permitting and licensing procedures. The economic analysis study shall attempt to determine the

costs and benefits associated with encouraging economic development in various areas, including textiles, pulping products for paper, biocomposites and building materials, animal bedding, nutritional products for livestock, industries related to seed extraction and resins for potential biofuels, lubricants, paints and inks, cosmetics, body care products and nutritional supplements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States congress be urged to recognize industrial hemp as a valuable agriculture commodity, to define industrial hemp in federal law as a non- psychoactive and genetically identifiable species of the genus Cannabis and acknowledge that allowing and encouraging farmers to produce industrial hemp will improve the balance of trade by promoting domestic sources of industrial hemp and can make a positive contribution to the issues of global climate change and carbon sequestration;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the dean of the college of agriculture and home economics, the president of the United States, the federal secretary of agriculture, the chair of the United States senate committee on agriculture, nutrition and forestry, the chair of the United States house of representatives committee on agriculture and each member of New Mexico's congressional delegation.