



NEW YORK STATE **EXCELSIOR** **EVER UPWARD**

2017 State of the State



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor



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Proposal: Grow the Industrial Hemp Program in the Southern Tier

Industrial hemp, which is used in the production of clothing, building materials, paper, and animal feed, is emerging as a potentially significant agricultural product—especially in the Southern Tier.³⁵ Nationally, the industry is estimated to be worth more than \$570 million.³⁶ In the last year, two research institutions in New York were authorized to grow, process, and sell industrial hemp as an agricultural product.

Despite early successes, barriers to market development remain. To accelerate this process and support farmers in the Southern Tier and beyond, the State must help farmers tackle challenges, including growing restrictions, seed availability, and lack of best management practices.

Governor Cuomo will advance legislation to increase the number of locations authorized to grow industrial hemp, simplify compliance with security and transportation requirements, and initiate a research pilot at the Department of Agriculture and Markets to work directly with private farms. Additionally, to continue growing the industry, Governor Cuomo will convene an Industrial Hemp Summit in the Southern Tier

in 2017. Growers and industry will convene to share best practices and discuss future regulatory revisions needed to facilitate production and related job growth in New York State.

Proposal: Create Master Plan for “Gateway to the Adirondacks” at Northway Exit 29 in North Hudson

The Frontier Town theme park was built in the Adirondacks in 1952. For more than four decades, this entertainment destination was a boon to the local economy, drawing visitors from across the country to the Town of North Hudson. But since 1998 when the theme park was closed, this site at Exit 29 of the Northway has sat dormant. As a result, local jobs, restaurants and lodging have all but disappeared from this once thriving Adirondack community.

In 2016, recognizing a critical need to invigorate the economies of these Adirondack communities, Governor Cuomo challenged the Open Space Institute and five neighboring Adirondack towns to collaborate with the State to design a blueprint for a new recreation hub at this location. In 2017, that challenge will be met and a new world-class recreational experience will be