

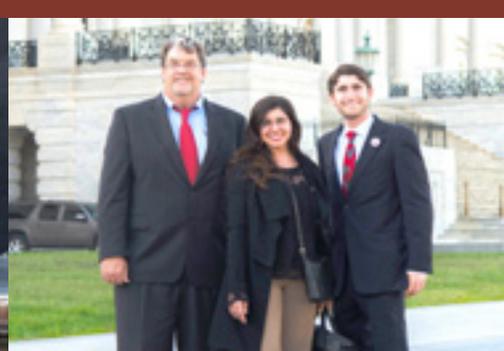
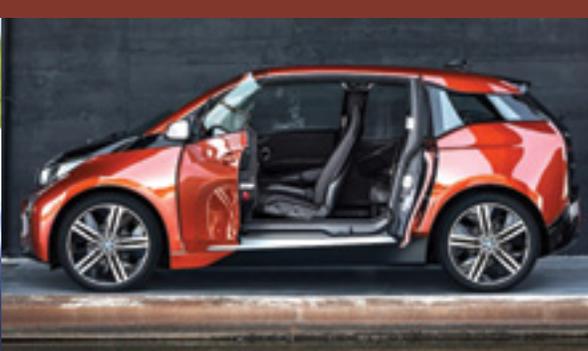


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Vote Hemp™



2016 Hemp Update



Congressional Update



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NEW Industrial Hemp Farming Act cosponsors

New Senate Cosponsors

Sen. Gardner (R-CO), Sen. Daines (R-MT), Sen. Franken (D-MN), Sen. Bennet (D-CO), Sen. Tester (D-MT) & Sen. Baldwin (D-WI)

New House Cosponsors

Rep. Titus (D-NV), Rep. Huffman (D-CA), Rep. Swalwell (D-CA), Rep. Sanford (R-SC), Rep. Whitfield (R-KY), Rep. Benishek (R-MI), Rep. Connolly (D-VA), Rep. Perlmutter (D-CO), Rep. Speier (D-CA), Rep. Walden (R-OR), Rep. Courtney (D-CT), Rep. Lowey (D-NY), Rep. Coffman (R-CO), Rep. Ellmers (R-NC), Rep. Tipton (R-CO), Rep. Davis (R-IL), Rep. Hurt (R-VA) & Rep. Scott (D-VA)



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H.R. 525 Bipartisan Cosponsors

House Cosponsors

H.R. 525 introduced by Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY)

- 40 Democrats
- 25 Republicans



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S. 134 Bipartisan Cosponsors

Senate Cosponsors

S. 134 introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) & Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

- 5 Democrats
- 4 Republicans
- 1 Independent



289

House members support hemp research

By way of the Massie hemp amendment to the FY 16 CJS Appropriations Act, this is a benchmark number of House members who support hemp's progress in the next year.



Hemp as an Agricultural Commodity

CRS RL32725

Renée Johnson, Specialist in Agricultural Policy

February 2, 2015

Summary: Industrial hemp is an agricultural commodity that is cultivated for use in the production of a wide range of products, including foods and beverages, cosmetics and personal care products, and nutritional supplements, as well as fabrics and textiles, yarns and spun fibers, paper, construction and insulation materials, and other manufactured goods. Hemp can be grown as a fiber, seed, or other dual-purpose crop. Some estimate that the global market for hemp consists of more than 25,000 products. Precise data are not available on the size of the U.S. market for hemp-based products, but current industry estimates report annual sales at more than \$580 million annually.

Hemp Amendments included in FY2016 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

McConnell Amendment to Omnibus

SEC. 739.

None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used—(1) in contravention of section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 5940); or (2) to prohibit the transportation, processing, sale, or use of industrial hemp that is grown or cultivated in accordance with subsection section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, within or outside the State in which the industrial hemp is grown or cultivated.

Massie Amendment to the CJS Appropriations Act

SEC. 541.

None of the funds made available under this Act may be used in contravention of section 7606 (“Legitimacy of Industrial Hemp Research”) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79) by the Department of Justice or the Drug Enforcement Administration.

USDA Hemp Research Clarification Letter

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2015

Tom Vilsack
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

As you know, industrial hemp research pilot programs were authorized under the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79) when certain conditions are met. Twenty-six states have laws authorizing industrial hemp pilot studies and/or production as made legal by the Agricultural Act of 2014. However, it is our understanding that researchers participating in the industrial hemp pilot programs have received conflicting information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on whether these programs are eligible for federal grant awards from existing USDA funds. Therefore, we are writing to request that you clarify your agency’s authority to award federal funds to eligible industrial hemp research programs.

Hemp is prized throughout the world for its array of industrial uses. Currently, 30 countries grow hemp and the U.S. alone imported millions of dollars of hemp products last year. This presents a real opportunity for farmers and researchers throughout the United States. A 2014 report done by the Congressional Research Service documents the growing market for hemp products and its potential to be an economic driver for our country. Our universities and state departments of agriculture are ready to grow and cultivate this agricultural product, according to current federal and state laws.

Since the 1900s, your agency has supported research on industrial uses of commodities. The Critical Agricultural Materials Act of 1984 and various funding bills have supported funding for the research and development of alternative crops in state laboratories and at your agency. Furthermore, the Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NAARETPA, 7 U.S.C. §3111(a)(1)) authorizes the USDA to award competitive grants for the development of new commercial products derived from natural plant material for industrial, medical, and agricultural applications.

It appears that USDA has the authority to award competitive grants for the development of industrial hemp. Nevertheless, it seems the USDA has provided conflicting information regarding whether the agency is willing to exercise its authority to award existing federal grant dollars for the research of industrial hemp. It is our understanding that some seeking clarity from the USDA on this issue have been told by USDA officials “it is not worth it to apply,” while on the other hand, an internal USDA memo dated December 23, 2014 seems to indicate that the USDA is supportive of industrial hemp research and therefore may be willing to award funds for that purpose. The memo from National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Director Sonya Ramarany to Southern Association of Agriculture Experiment Station Directors Executive

Director Eric Young states: “NIFA supports research on the cultivation of industrial hemp and on cultivated hemp provided such cultivation complies with Section 7606 [of the Agricultural Act].”

Due to this lack of consistency, researchers are reluctant to apply for federal funds because of the large amount of time, effort, and cost that goes into any grant application.

To help provide our constituents with information, we would appreciate answers to the following questions:

1. Does USDA interpret current law as providing the agency with the authority to award existing and competitive federal funds for the research of industrial hemp?
2. If the answer is yes, what steps is USDA taking to disseminate that information and work with interested parties in the competitive grant process?

We look forward to expedient responses to our questions. Thank you in advance for your review of this inquiry.

Sincerely,

Mitch McConnell
Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senator

Ron Wyden
Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator

Jard Polis
Jard Polis
Member of Congress

Thomas Massie
Thomas Massie
Member of Congress

Al Franken
Al Franken
U.S. Senator

Rand Paul
Rand Paul
U.S. Senator

Mark R. Warner
Mark R. Warner
U.S. Senator

Lamar Alexander
Lamar Alexander
U.S. Senator

Michael F. Bennet
Michael F. Bennet
U.S. Senator

Jeff Merkley
Jeff Merkley
U.S. Senator

Steve Daines
Steve Daines
U.S. Senator

Michael F. Bennet
Michael F. Bennet
U.S. Senator

Al Franken
Al Franken
U.S. Senator

Rand Paul
Rand Paul
U.S. Senator

Mark R. Warner
Mark R. Warner
U.S. Senator

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Complete list of Signatories: Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO), Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT), Sen. Al Franken (D-MN), Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO), Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI), Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA), and Reps. Jard Polis (D-CO), Thomas Massie (R-KY), Andy Barr (R-KY), Rod Blum (R-IA), Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Steve Cohen (D-TN), Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Rodney Davis (R-IL), Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Diana DeGette (D-CO), Suzan DelBene (D-WA), Sam Farr (D-CA), Morgan Griffith (R-VA), Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), Brett Guthrie (R-KY), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Ted Lieu (D-CA), Tom McClintock (R-CA), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Beto O'Rourke (D-TX), Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), Chellie Pingree (D-ME), Mark Pocan (D-WI), Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), Tim Ryan (D-OH), Kurt Schrader (D-OR), Marlin Stutzman (R-IN), Eric Swalwell (D-CA), Mark Takai (D-HI), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Peter Welch (D-VT), Ed Whitfield (R-KY), John Yarmuth (D-KY), and Ryan Zinke (R-MT).

National Hemp Update



Increased Support in Congress for Industrial Hemp

The 2014 Farm Bill included Sec. 7606, *The Legitimacy of Industrial Hemp Research*, defining industrial hemp and allowing for licensed pilot programs; now underway in nine (9) states. Since then, Congress has doubled-down with strong bipartisan support for industrial hemp farming in the U.S., passing FY 16 CJS appropriations amendments 289-132 and 282-146 in the House and by a voice vote in the Senate Appropriations Committee to stop the DEA and Dept. of Justice from using funds in the contravention of Sec. 7606 hemp programs. Sen. McConnell (R-KY) added language to FY 16 Omnibus Appropriations bill which expands protection for transportation, processing, sale and use of hemp produced in legal hemp states in accordance with Sec. 7606. McConnell's language was included in the FY16 Omnibus Appropriations bill, which passed on 12/22/15 and prohibits the use of funds by any agency including the DEA in contravention of Sec. 7606.

States Rights Around the Country

Since the passage of *The Legitimacy of Industrial Hemp Research* in the Farm Bill, many new states have passed hemp legislation. But because of current federal laws, these states must operate in a legal grey area of uncertainty, where importing viable hemp seed still carries risk of interference from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) & U.S. Customs. In June 2014, the DEA seized over 280 pounds of hemp seed purchased by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. Further federal action, such as the passage of the Industrial Hemp Farming Act (H.R. 525 & S. 134), is still needed to provide certainty to American farmers and businesses, and for investment in this re-emerging industry.

2015 Crop Report

Colorado - State Licensed & Academic Research

166 Registrants
 3,657 acres approved
 2,300 acres harvested (estimate by CO Dept. of Ag)
 570,980 sf. of licensed indoor cultivation (some was replanted outdoors)
 Participating Universities: Colorado State University

Hawaii - Academic Research Only

Participating Universities: University of Hawaii

Kentucky - Pilot Programs & Academic Research

127 Registrants
 1,742 acres approved
 922.31 acres planted
 Participating Universities: University of Kentucky, Murray State, Eastern Kentucky University, Western Kentucky University, St. Catharine's College, University of Pikeville

Indiana - Academic Research Only

4 acres approved
 4 acres planted
 Participating Universities: Purdue

Oregon - State Licensed & Academic Research

11 Registrants
 50 acres or less planted
 Participating Universities: Oregon State University

Tennessee - Pilot Programs & Academic Research

41 Registrants
 1,400 acres approved
 700 acres planted
 Participating Universities: Middle Tennessee State University, University of Tennessee

Vermont - State Registration & Academic Research

23 Registrants
 20 acres approved
 Participating Universities: University of Vermont



State Hemp Legislation

ALASKA HEMP LEGISLATION IN 2015
 SB 8
 Introduced: 1/21/15 by Sen. Ellis
 Summary: In accordance with Sec. 7606
 Status: Judiciary Committee

ARIZONA HEMP LEGISLATION IN 2015
 SB 1225
 Introduced: 1/27/15 by Sen. Pancrazi
 Summary: Creates study committee
 Status: Passed Senate 3/5/15

CALIFORNIA HEMP RESEARCH IS LEGAL



Colorado State University

COLORADO HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL

CONNECTICUT HEMP STUDY IS LEGAL
 HR 5780
 Introduced: 1/12/15 by Rep. Ziobron & Rep. Carter
 Summary: In accordance with Sec. 7606
 Status: Governor signed 7/2/15

DELAWARE HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL

FLORIDA HEMP LEGISLATION PENDING
 SB 554
 Introduced: 10/23/15 by Sen. Clemens
 Summary: In accordance with Sec. 7606
 SB 1608 | HB 1257
 Introduced: 1/8/16 by Sen. Montford & Rep. Dudley
 Summary: Authorizes FAMU to develop Hemp Research Compliance Program & Rulemaking

GEORGIA - HEMP LEGISLATION PENDING
 HB704
 Introduced: 4/2/15 by Rep. Pezold
 Summary: In accordance with Sec. 7606



*University of Hawaii
 60 day old hemp crop - July 2015*

HAWAII HEMP RESEARCH IS LEGAL
 HB 508 SD2
 Introduced: 1/26/15 by Rep. Onishi
 Summary: In accordance with Sec. 7606

ILLINOIS HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL



*Purdue University
 hemp field day*

INDIANA HEMP RESEARCH IS LEGAL
 HB 1181
 Introduced: 1/12/15 by Rep. Lehe
 Summary: Refines policies & creates study committee for hemp extract.
 Status: Governor signed 5/4/15

IOWA HEMP LEGISLATION IN 2015
 SSB 1260
 Introduced: 3/4/15 by Sen. Seng
 Summary: Study legislation
 Status: No Action

HF 470
 Introduced: 3/4/15 by Rep. Forbes
 Summary: Hemp production
 Status: No Action



KANSAS HEMP LEGISLATION PENDING
Note: Rep. Dove expected to introduce bill



*University of Kentucky
hemp field day*

KENTUCKY HEMP RESEARCH &
PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL

MAINE HEMP RESEARCH IS LEGAL

LD 4
Introduced: 1/7/15 by Rep. Sanderson
Summary: Amends MRSA §2231 to
promote industrial hemp
Status: Senate overrides Governor's
veto 6/16/15. **Became Law 6/16/15**

MARYLAND HEMP IS ILLEGAL UNTIL
INDUSTRIAL HEMP FARMING ACT
PASSES

HB 803
Introduced: 2/13/15
Summary: Hemp production
Status: **Governor signed 5/12/15**

MICHIGAN HEMP RESEARCH IS LEGAL



University of Minnesota

MINNESOTA HEMP RESEARCH &
PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL

Omnibus Agriculture, Environment
& Natural Resources Appropriations Bill
Introduced: 6/12/15 by Sen. Tomassoni;
Representatives McNamara, Hamilton
and Davids
Summary: In accordance with Sec. 7606
Status: **Governor signed 6/13/15**

HF 14
Introduced: 6/12/15 by Rep. Hamilton
Summary: Amends for policy & changes
Status: Introduced for 2016

MISSOURI HEMP RESEARCH IS LEGAL
HJR 57
Introduced: 12/1/15 by Rep. Ellington
Summary: Constitutional Amendment to enact hemp legislation
regarding the cultivation, processing & sale of
industrial hemp by 7/1/19

HB 2038
Introduced: 1/7/16 by Rep. Curtman
Summary: Allows Dept. of Ag to license hemp growers
& criminalizes unlicensed hemp growers

MONTANA HEMP RESEARCH &
PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL

NEBRASKA HEMP RESEARCH &
PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL

NEVADA HEMP RESEARCH &
PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL

SB 305
Introduced: 3/16/15 by Segerblom
Summary: In accordance with Sec. 7606
Status: **Governor signed 6/4/15**

NEW HAMPSHIRE HEMP STUDY IS LEGAL

NEW JERSEY HEMP LEGISLATION PENDING
Note: Assemblyman Gusciora expected to
introduce hemp bill.

NEW MEXICO HEMP LEGISLATION PENDING
SB 3 | HB 148
Introduced: 12/15/15 by Sen. McSorley & Rep. Gomez
Summary: Authorizes hemp research within
the scope of the Farm Bill

NEW YORK HEMP RESEARCH IS LEGAL
A 8334
Introduced: 1/6/16 by Rep. Lupardo
Summary: Amends law to allow for hemp cultivation
to be within the scope of the Farm Bill

NORTH CAROLINA HEMP RESEARCH &
PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL
SB 313
Introduced: 3/17/15 by Senator's Bingham; Hise & Waddell
Summary: Creates Hemp Commission to establish &
oversee a growers licensing program, which
must be funded & also decriminalizes the
production and use of industrial hemp upon the
completion of rulemaking by the Board of Ag.
Status: **Became law without signature 10/31/15**



*North Dakota State University
hemp field day*



*Middle Tennessee State University
hemp field day*

NORTH DAKOTA **HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL**

SB 2145
 Introduced: 1/8/15 by Senator's Davison; Luick; Oban & Poolman
 Summary: Background check for licensing
 Status: **Governor signed 4/1/15**

OREGON **HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL**

PENNSYLVANIA **HEMP LEGISLATION PENDING**

SB 50
 Introduced: 2/12/15 by Sen. Schwank & Sen. Folmer
 Summary: Est. a board to act in accordance with SEC 7606
 Status: Referred to Appropriations

RHODE ISLAND **HEMP LEGISLATION IN 2015**

HB 6177 | SB 990
 Introduced: 5/7/15 by Rep. Keable & Sosnowski
 Summary: Provides a definition for "CBD-Rich Hemp Oil" to legalize cannabidiol and industrial hemp
 Status: Passed House 6/18/15

SOUTH CAROLINA **HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL**

H 4340
 Introduced: 6/4/15 by Rep. Home & Rep. King
 Summary: Amends Chp. 55, Title 46
 Status: Referred to Medical, Military, Public & Municipal Affairs committee

SOUTH DAKOTA **HEMP LEGISLATION PENDING**

HB 1054
 Introduced: 1/15/16 by Rep. Verchio
 Summary: Authorizes the production & sale of hemp
 Status: Passed House Ag & Natural Resources Committee

TENNESSEE **HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL**

SB 1611
 Introduced: 1/13/16 by Sen. Niceley
 Summary: Designates that the Dept. of Ag license processing facilities & any state 4-year university/college to develop foundation hemp seed for Federal Seed Act Certification

TEXAS **HEMP LEGISLATION IN 2015**

HB 557
 Introduced: 12/19/14 by Rep. Farias
 Summary: Allows academic institutions to participate in accordance with Sec. 7606
 Status: Place on General Calendar - No Action

UTAH **HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL**

VERMONT **HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL**

VIRGINIA **HEMP RESEARCH IS LEGAL**

HB 1277
 Introduced: 7/21/14 by Del. Yost
 Summary: Academic pilot program
 Status: **Governor signed 3/17/15**

HB 699
 Introduced: 1/11/16 by Rep. Patron & Rep. Pogge
 Summary: Authorizes hemp research within the scope of the Farm Bill

WASHINGTON **HEMP LEGISLATION PENDING**

SB 6206
 Introduced: 1/12/16 by Sen. Hasegawa
 Summary: Designates Washington State University as the research institution authorized to conduct a full feasibility study

SB 5012
 Introduced: 12/15/14 by Sen. Hatfield & Sen. Honeyfield
 Summary: Authorizes the growing of industrial hemp in the state by adding to Title 15 RCW 69.50.204
 Status: By resolution, reintroduced & retained in present status, 6/28/15

WEST VIRGINIA **HEMP RESEARCH & PILOT PROGRAM IS LEGAL**

WISCONSIN **HEMP LEGISLATION IN 2015**

AB 215
 Introduced: 5/14/15 by Rep. Cosdine
 Summary: In accordance with Sec. 7606
 Status: Referred to State Affairs & Government Operations Committee

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Vote HempTM
www.VoteHemp.com



President
Eric Steenstra
eric@votehemp.com
703-729-2225



Legislative Liaison
Ben Droz
congress@votehemp.com
202-681-4389



National Outreach Coordinator
Colleen Keahey
colleen@votehemp.com

