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HOUSE MEMORIAL 49

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

INTRODUCED BY

Ray Begaye

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 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

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1 than thirty nations, including Canada, Great Britain, France,
2 Germany, Romania, Australia and China; and

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

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

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

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

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
24 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
25 department of agriculture be urged to undertake an in-depth

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1 economic analysis study that will address the viability of a
2 legal hemp industry in New Mexico. The New Mexico department
3 of agriculture is urged to review the long-term impacts of a
4 permitted hemp industry and the costs of establishing proper
5 permitting and licensing procedures. The economic analysis
6 study shall attempt to determine the costs and benefits
7 associated with encouraging economic development in various
8 areas, including textiles, pulping products for paper,
9 biocomposites and building materials, animal bedding,
10 nutritional products for livestock, industries related to seed
11 extraction and resins for potential biofuels, lubricants,
12 paints and inks, cosmetics, body care products and nutritional
13 supplements; and

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

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the director of the New Mexico department of
25 agriculture, the president of the United States, the federal

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1 secretary of agriculture, the chair of the United States senate
2 committee on agriculture, nutrition and forestry, the chair of
3 the United States house of representatives committee on
4 agriculture and each member of New Mexico's congressional
5 delegation.

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