

## Why Vote Hemp?

VOTE HEMP, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to the acceptance of and a free market for industrial hemp. Industrial hemp encompasses all non-psychoactive low-THC varieties of the cannabis plant and is cultivated for fiber and seed for use in diverse industries. Currently, it is illegal for U.S. farmers to grow hemp because it is improperly classified as a "drug" under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), along with its psychoactive high-THC cousin, marijuana. Since changes in law require shifts in thinking, which requires education in the facts, our primary goal is to educate legislators and regulators, farmers and business owners, consumers and students, and other concerned citizens.

Vote Hemp has been educating state and federal legislators and working for the acceptance and recommercialization of hemp.

Hemp is a renewable resource for food, fiber, energy and more. The nascent global hemp market is a thriving commercial success. Unfortunately, due to outdated attitudes and Drug War para-

noia in Washington, the U.S. is the only major industrialized nation to prohibit the growing and processing of hemp. More than 30 countries, including Canada, France, England and Germany, allow farmers to grow hemp under straightforward regulatory regimes, and their relevant law enforcement agencies have not experienced any serious problems with diversion. From the time of Jamestown through 1937, and again briefly during WWII under the Department of Agriculture's "Hemp for Victory" program, American farmers cultivated hemp. Now, a large and well-educated cross-section of citizens is demanding that this right be restored.

Vote Hemp has been educating state and federal legislators and working for the acceptance and recommercialization of hemp. Vote Hemp published a Voter Guide for the 2000 election, listing the positions on hemp of all candidates for U.S. Congress and the Presidency, and is publishing an updated Guide for the mid-term elections in 2002.

Vote Hemp played a key role in developing industry self-regulation, working with the Hemp Industries Association (HIA) to develop the TestPledge program through which participating companies assure consumers that they need not be concerned about workplace confirmation drug test interference as a result of using hemp products.

Vote Hemp coordinated the legal fight this past year against the DEA's October 2001 rules attempting to ban hemp foods containing insignificant trace THC despite a clear Congressional exemption (21 U.S.C. §802 (16)) for hemp seed and oil. In March of 2002, the Ninth Circuit

Court of Appeals issued a Stay of the DEA's interpretive rule on behalf of the HIA and other affected hemp food companies, rendering the rule null and void until the Court issues its final ruling sometime later this year. Vote Hemp expects the Court will permanently invalidate the DEA's rule and hemp foods will remain legal to import, sell and consume. In fact, industry sales have increased steadily since the Stay was issued.

Vote Hemp also coordinated the submission of over 115,000 comments to the DEA from the public opposing their regulations, as well as a bipartisan

Congressional "Dear Colleague" letter co-signed by 22 members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Vote Hemp is currently engaged in numerous projects at both the state and federal levels. These include providing information and support for various state legislative efforts and assisting Lakota Sioux farmer Alex White Plume in his family's efforts to grow hemp as a value-added renewable crop on the Pine Ridge Reservation, the land of the sovereign Lakota Nation and one of the poorest areas in the U.S.

Stay informed about industrial hemp news and legislation by signing up for the Action Alert email list at the Vote Hemp web site. Also at the web site's Action Alert Center, with the click of a button you can fax or email a pre-drafted letter to your elected representatives demanding that American farmers be allowed to once again cultivate and process hemp. We encourage you while there to make an online credit card donation to support Vote Hemp's important ongoing efforts, or let us know how else you may be able to help.

Thank you for taking the time to read through *The Vote Hemp Report*.

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### Useful Links

Vote Hemp Voter Guide - <http://www.VoteHemp.com/voterguide.html>  
TestPledge Program - <http://www.TestPledge.com>  
HIA vs. DEA - <http://www.VoteHemp.com/news.html>  
Lakota Hemp Project - <http://www.VoteHemp.com/news.html#Lakota>

## Your Vote for Hemp Will Make a Difference!

### Your financial support is crucial to Vote Hemp's efforts.

We need your help now more than ever to keep our organization healthy and able to do our important work effectively. Any donation, large or small, will mean a great deal to Vote Hemp and our ability to effect positive change.

Please help us educate Congress and farmers and build support for hemp. Our work to date has been made possible by many forward-thinking people like you.

#### Over 2002-2003, we will:

- ▶ Lobby Congress to change federal regulations restricting industrial hemp
- ▶ Track voter attitudes through a national poll to demonstrate the wide range of public support for this common sense issue
- ▶ Educate farmers and state and local farm bureaus
- ▶ Persuade state and federal legislators to take a leadership role in advancing the hemp cause
- ▶ Galvanize voters to support pro-hemp candidates

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Vote Hemp

Vote Hemp is making great progress in our mission to re-establish hemp as a premier renewable resource and major agricultural input in the U.S. We have accomplished so much with so little; please help us do even more. Go to our web site to make an encryption-secured credit card donation today:

<http://www.VoteHemp.com/contribute.html>

Or mail your donation to us at: Vote Hemp, P.O. Box 862, Bedford, MA 01730.

Note that Vote Hemp is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization, and donations are not tax-deductible.

Get a Vote Hemp t-shirt for a donation of only \$36