WHEREAS, Industrial hemp was first domesticated 10,000 years ago; was required in 1619 to be grown by all farmers in Jamestown, Virginia; was legal tender in America and accepted as payment for taxes from 1631 to the early 1800’s; was a cash crop grown on the plantations of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson; was grown in America and regulated by the Department of Agriculture until 1937; and was the domestic source of maritime rope during the 1942 to 1945 World War II “Hemp for Victory” campaign; and
WHEREAS, Industrial hemp provided the ropes and sails for Christopher Columbus’ ships and the paper on which the Declaration of Independence was first drafted; and
WHEREAS, Industrial hemp has been used to produce more than 25,000 products; and
WHEREAS, Industrial hemp is produced by 30 nations, including Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Romania, Australia, and China, none of which are classified by the federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) as drug-producing countries; and
WHEREAS, The DEA permits industrial hemp to be grown under strict rules and regulations that are currently being revised; and

WHEREAS, The importation of industrial hemp is permitted by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the North American Free Trade Agreement; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota has legalized industrial hemp for commercial farming; Hawaii and Minnesota have legalized test crops of industrial hemp; the Legislatures of Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin are considering the legalization of industrial hemp; and the City and County of San Francisco is currently drafting an ordinance to permit its residents to grow industrial hemp; and

WHEREAS, Industrial hemp can be easily distinguished from marijuana by appearance, cultivation methods, and chemical analysis because industrial hemp is a nonintoxicating, benign form of the cannabis sativa plant that contains less than 1 percent tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), while marijuana contains 5 to 20 percent THC; and industrial hemp seeds are planted to yield more than 1,000 stalks per two square yards, while only one marijuana plant can be grown in the same size plot; and industrial hemp matures in 70 to 120 days and is harvested before it flowers, while marijuana is cultivated for its flowertops and takes 120 to 180 days to mature; and, when grown together, industrial hemp will pollinate marijuana, reducing its THC content to a nonintoxicating level; and

WHEREAS, Industrial hemp thrives without herbicides, reinvigorates the soil, requires less water than cotton, matures in three to four months, and can potentially yield four times as much paper per acre as trees, building materials that are twice as strong as wood and concrete, textile fiber that is up to eight times as strong as cotton, better oil and paint than petroleum,
clean-burning diesel fuel, biodegradable plastics, and
more digestible protein per acre than any other food
source; and
WHEREAS, Industrial hemp can be planted and
harvested in California several times per year, and gross
$200 to $600 per acre per harvest at current market prices;
and
WHEREAS, All industrial hemp raw materials
currently must be imported to manufacture products
that are distributed by, and sold in, more than 60 specialty
shops and 250 general stores throughout California, with
national sales and exports exceeding $100 million per
year; now, therefore, be it
Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California,
That the Assembly finds and declares that industrial
hemp is a vital, sustainable, renewable resource for
building materials, cloth, cordage, fiber, food, fuel,
industrial chemicals, oil, paint, paper, plastics, seed, yarn,
and many other useful products; and be it further
Resolved, That the Assembly finds and declares that the
domestic production of industrial hemp can help protect
California’s environment, contribute to the growth of the
state economy, and be regulated in a manner that will not
interfere with the enforcement of marijuana laws; and be
it further
Resolved, That the Assembly finds and declares that the
Legislature should consider action to revise the legal
status of industrial hemp to allow for its growth in
California as an agricultural and industrial crop; and be it
further
Resolved, That the Assembly finds and declares that the
Legislature should consider directing the University of
California, the California State University, and other state
agencies to prepare studies in conjunction with private
industry on the cultivation, processing, and marketing of
industrial hemp.