



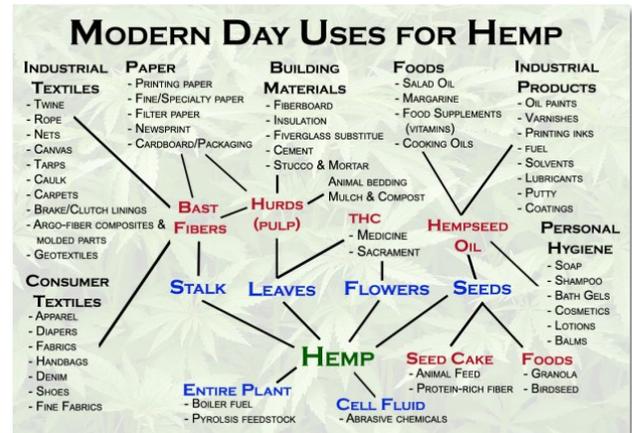
THE ROAD TO LEGALIZE HEMP

Summary

Today, industrial hemp is legal to grow in several states – but not at the federal level. Despite its varied uses and benefits, hemp is stuck in an antiquated legal regime where it is associated with street drugs such as heroin. It has zero drug value. Recently, Congress has recognized this mistake and has begun to take steps to permit limited production of hemp in the U.S. under the Farm bill. At a time when farm jobs are in small supply and so many farmers are looking to transition crops away from tobacco, the opportunity to unleash the potential of hemp to be a productive cash crop is right at our fingertips. This initiative could literally lead to thousands of jobs in production, manufacturing, and consumption of hemp products. Legislation to legalize hemp is now before the Congress and we respectfully ask you to join a bipartisan group of members as a cosponsor of H.R. 525 and S. 134, The Industrial Hemp Farming Acts, to bring this necessary change.

Background - Why Are We Supporting Chinese Farmers?

Hemp is one of our world’s oldest plants. It has been grown and used since time immemorial. Today, it is used in rope, carpets, brake/clutch linings, automotive body parts, shoes, fabrics, paper, cardboard, cement, wallboard, fuel, lubricants, soap, shampoo, cosmetics, prescription drugs, granola, energy bars and many, many other consumer items here in this country. Any yet, we import it. Last year, estimates suggest we imported almost a half billion dollars. Over 30 countries produce hemp, but most of the U.S. supply comes from China. So why do we do this? Back in the 1930’s two prominent U.S. industrialists took on this project to ban production of hemp to protect their own economic interests. Over time, hemp products in the U.S. have become more commonplace. But its production here is still banned.



Agricultural Benefits - What’s Not to Like About Hemp?

Hemp requires little fertilizer, and grows well almost everywhere. It also resists pests, so it uses little pesticides. Hemp puts down deep roots, which is good for the soil, and when the leaves drop off the hemp plant, minerals and nitrogen are returned to the soil. Hemp has been grown on the same soil for twenty years in a row without any noticeable depletion of the soil. For all of these reasons, hemp is an appealing crop to grow.

Drug Implications - Hemp is NOT Pot!

Some misunderstandings continue to persist about hemp. The most common one is that it is marijuana. The only thing hemp has in common with marijuana is that it comes from the same plant family. But the two plants are radically different. Hemp has no measurable psychoactive drug value. Consequently, it has nothing to do with recreational drugs.



Legal Production of Hemp - Time to Grow Hemp Here!

Twenty eight states—California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia—currently have laws to provide for hemp pilot studies and/or for production as permitted under the 2014 Farm Bill. Much more can be done to allow hemp to thrive as a cash crop.

Federal Legislation - Our Leaders Want a Hearing!

Sponsors Rep Thomas Massie (R-KY) and Sen Ron Wyden (D-OR) have introduced companion bills H.R. 525 and S. 134, The Industrial Hemp Farming Act, to remove the ban on growing hemp in the U.S. With substantial support from their colleagues, our sponsors are in a position to move these bills. Farmers need the certainty that this crop will be deemed legal to grow before they will commit acreage to cultivation. Most immediately, a stronger push by cosponsors of these measures will give momentum for hearings to be held in the House and Senate Judiciary Committees early next year.

Support - Fans of Legislative Action!

A number of farm groups have already endorsed these bills – the American Farm Bureau, National Farmers Union, and the National Grange. In addition, the National Hemp Association, Hemp Industries Association, Vote Hemp, and North American Industrial Hemp Council all support these legislative changes.

Conclusion - Jobs, Jobs, Jobs!

It is long overdue that this federal law be changed to reflect modern realities. We have a farm sector that is eager to plant a hemp crop. And we have a growing set of uses eager for cheaper and more plentiful supplies. This may be one of the most important rural jobs bills to become before the Congress this session. We urge your support for this necessary change.

Thank you to Our Sponsors

