



# Grow Our Future

JUNE 6-12, 2016

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Hemp History Week Resolution Passes Unanimously in Senate

### House Introduces Complementary Resolution Recognizing the History of Hemp

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Today, the United States Senate passed a unanimous resolution, officially recognizing Hemp History Week, and asserting support for the legalization of industrial hemp farming in the U.S. Lead by Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR), Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), and Rand Paul (R-KY), this bipartisan resolution recognizes the importance of the history of hemp in the United States, as well as the potential of industrial hemp farming to positively impact the American agricultural economy. The House of Representatives introduced a complementary resolution earlier this week, recognizing Hemp History Week, and asserting support for the passage of the Industrial Hemp Farming Act, H.R. 525 and S. 134 respectively, which would lift the federal prohibition on industrial hemp, and once again allow farmers nationwide to grow this versatile and sustainable crop. The House resolution was introduced by Reps. Jared Polis (D-CO.), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR.), and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR.)

“Another year has gone by and industrial hemp somehow remains on the controlled substances list,” Wyden said. “There’s no need to punish American farmers and entrepreneurs who stand to create good-paying jobs and countless products from this crop with seemingly endless uses. My bipartisan colleagues and I are working to lift this senseless ban during Hemp History Week and every week of the year.”

“I am proud to join my colleagues in this bipartisan effort to officially recognize this week as Hemp History Week,” McConnell said. “Given the important history of hemp in Kentucky and throughout the nation, we believe it is important to remember the role hemp has played in America’s past, and to envision a future where industrial hemp is once again a viable crop.”

The Senators and Representatives who lead the introduction of these resolutions are all co-sponsors of the Industrial Hemp Farming Act, which if passed would remove industrial hemp from the Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, and would define hemp as non-drug cannabis that contains less than 0.3 percent tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) by dry weight. Over half of all states have now removed barriers to hemp cultivation and production, with strong support from farmers, businesses, manufacturers and consumers. Advocates for industrial hemp farming see 2016 as a pivotal political opportunity in which grassroots momentum and bi-partisan support in Congress may finally culminate to return hemp to the American agrarian landscape once again.

Hemp History Week, the annual nationwide advocacy campaign that launched nationwide in 2010, is celebrated June 6-12 this year with more than 2,000 events in all 50 states. The campaign is coordinated by the Hemp Industries Association (HIA), Vote Hemp, and hundreds of grassroots volunteers, advocates, farmers and businesses across the country. This year’s campaign theme is *Grow our Future* and focuses on the role hemp plays as a sustainable crop in regenerative agriculture, green technology, public health and environmentally friendly products. To view the video for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Hemp History Week, visit: <http://bit.ly/1NAXtZY>.

Oregon, Kentucky and Colorado are among the 29 states that have legalized industrial hemp farming, per provision Sec. 7606 of the farm bill, which permits limited hemp cultivation in states that have passed laws to regulate the crop. Other states that have lifted barriers to hemp cultivation include: Alabama, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia.

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*Hemp History Week, June 6–12, 2016, is an industry-wide initiative of the Hemp Industries Association (HIA) and Vote Hemp. The HIA is a non-profit trade group representing hemp companies, researchers, farmers and supporters. Vote Hemp is a national, single-issue, non-profit advocacy group founded in 2000 by members of the hemp industry to remove barriers to industrial hemp farming in the U.S. through education, legislation and advocacy. For further information, please visit [www.TheHIA.org](http://www.TheHIA.org) and [www.VoteHemp.com](http://www.VoteHemp.com).*