



The Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2015

This bill would create jobs by reducing federal regulations on agricultural hemp production. Current law requires all hemp products to be imported.

H.R. 525 and S. 134 have broad bipartisan support from 50+ members of Congress, including **Minority Leader Mitch McConnell** and **Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Collin Peterson**.

The Industrial Hemp Farming Act would:

- **Return power to states** to regulate approved varieties of non-drug agricultural hemp.
- **Create jobs** by domestically producing and processing raw materials and finished products.
- **Give new opportunities to farmers** to grow a versatile, low input, and profitable rotation crop.
- **Open the market** for businesses and entrepreneurs with thousands of products.

Why Now?

- The U.S. retail market for hemp products now **exceeds \$580 million annually**.
- **Twenty-one states have introduced hemp legislation** as of February, 2015. Before 2015, **nineteen states** had already passed hemp legislation.
- From 2012 to 2013, hemp food and body care sales grew 16.5%. 30% of Mercedes Benz manufactured contain biocomposite made with industrial hemp.
- Market growth, bipartisan support, and public awareness continue to increase in domestically and globally.

Made in the USA

- The U.S. is the only developed nation to ban hemp farming, meaning that U.S. companies must import hemp from Canada, China, and Europe.
- Canadian farmers report profits of ~\$200+/ acre, and also take advantage of the agricultural and ecological benefits of hemp farming. In the U.S. hemp varieties can be grown in all 50 states.
- Major groups including the **National Farmers Union**, the **National Association of State Departments of Agriculture**, and the **California State Sheriffs' Association** have endorsed hemp farming.
- To learn more, please see "**Hemp as an Agricultural Commodity**" (2013), CRS Report RL 32725

**We can no longer afford to overlook this bipartisan solution to job creation.
Please urge Congress to support the Industrial Hemp Farming Act.**