



# Hemp: Our Heritage, Our Future

[www.HempHistoryWeek.com](http://www.HempHistoryWeek.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Fourth Annual “Hemp History Week” Amplifies Demand for Policy Change**

***880 Events Occur Nationwide this Week between June 3-9, 2013 Highlighting the Environmental, Economic, and Health Benefits of Industrial Hemp***

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The fourth annual **Hemp History Week** began on Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup> and will last until Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. The theme of this year's campaign, organized by The Hemp Industries Association (HIA) and Vote Hemp is *Hemp: Our Heritage, Our Future*. A national grassroots education campaign designed to amplify support for a change in policy that would allow hemp farming in the U.S., *Hemp History Week 2013* is featuring 880 events in cities and towns throughout all 50 states. At least 157 volunteer organized grassroots events as well as retail promotions in 723 stores along with special premieres of the new documentary film, *Bringing It Home*, and an online letter-writing drive to encourage the Obama Administration and Congress to change federal law that currently prohibits American farmers from growing industrial hemp are all anchoring this year's campaign to celebrate this environmentally sustainable and profitable crop and call for its return to American farms.

“Hemp was once a paramount crop in American agriculture, as a hardy and renewable resource for various industrial applications, including cordage, paper and textiles,” says Eric Steenstra, President of Vote Hemp. “Now, hemp is being used in an even greater variety of products, including healthy foods, organic body care, clothing, construction materials, biofuels, plastic composites and more. Increasingly, we’re moving toward a future that embraces environmentally sustainable agriculture practices, and hemp is at the forefront of that movement, given its incredibly diverse applications and net-positive environmental impact. “

This year's campaign features at least 157 grassroots events nationwide throughout all 50 states, including film premieres in major cities such as Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, San Diego, and Portland, as well as celebrations at festivals, farmers markets, and other events in rural areas in Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, Vermont, South Dakota, and other major farming states. Meanwhile promotions and in-store events highlighting the benefits of hemp are occurring in hundreds of natural product retail outlets across the country in at least 723 participating retail stores, including most Whole Foods Market locations in the U.S. For more information, including a complete list of events, activities and sponsors, go to: <http://www.HempHistoryWeek.com>.

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*Hemp History Week, June 3–9, 2013, 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).*