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San Diego “Hemp History Week” Event will Highlight History of Hemp Farming in San Diego and Imperial Counties

185 ‘Hemp History Week’ Events Planned in 32 States

La Jolla, CA – On May 17, 2010, Vote Hemp and Dr. Bronner’s Magic Soaps will host a townhall meeting celebrating the 1st Annual **Hemp History Week**, a national grassroots education campaign taking place from May 17-23, 2010, organized to renew strong support for hemp farming in the United States. The event will be held **Monday May 17th at 7 PM at the La Jolla Brew House, 7536 Fay Ave., La Jolla, CA 92037.**

Hemp historian and cannabis activist Dion Markgraaf will present hemp’s extensive role in US history, as well as hemp’s remarkable local history in San Diego including: the Imperial Linen Products Corporation, a multi-million dollar hemp processing factory located on National Boulevard at Harborside in Chula Vista; the Scripps family’s investigation of using hemp for making newspaper; as well as the buildings in Balboa Park being made with hemp hurds. President of Dr. Bronner’s Magic Soaps, David Bronner will then present the modern hemp renaissance of the last twenty years, where hemp seed and fiber use of many different industries is exploding, from healthy food to sustainable clothing to automobile car paneling. The event will also honor hemp-activist, Jack Herer who passed last month, who led the charge twenty years ago that broke the government’s conspiracy of silence and cover-up of industrial hemp, leading to the modern global resurgence of the hemp industry.

In addition to 185 events in 32 states, organizers expect the campaign to collect tens of thousands of hand-signed postcards addressed to President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder asking them to end the ban on hemp farming and let farmers grow the versatile and profitable crop. “Hemp was once an important crop for George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and thousands of American farmers across the country, including farmers here in San Diego and Imperial Counties until it was outlawed completely in 1970 by the Controlled Substances Act. **Hemp History Week** will help residents of San Diego learn about our rich hemp heritage as well as the tremendous environmental and economic benefits that would come with growing hemp in America once again,” explains local event organizer Dion Markgraaf.

Hemp History Week volunteers across the country have visited libraries and historical societies to research old newspaper articles and other documents about local hemp farming and manufacturing before the crop was banned. The newly discovered research will be presented at public events throughout **Hemp History Week**, including at the San Diego event. In addition to volunteer-run events nationwide, natural product retail outlets are participating in **Hemp History Week** by sampling best-selling hemp products in their stores including: Nature’s Path’s **Hemp Plus™** Granola Cereal, Sunny Hemp™ Granola Bars and **Hemp Plus™** Waffles; Living Harvest Foods **Tempt™** hemp milk and frozen desserts; Nutiva’s organic shelled hemp seed and Dr. Bronner’s Magic Soaps. In the San Diego area, hemp products will be featured and sampling will take place at all Jimbo’s and Henry’s stores.

Sustainable hemp seed, fiber and oil are already used in nutritious food, textiles, body care and even auto-parts. Companies like Ford Motors, Patagonia, and The Body Shop, in addition to Hemp Industries Association members such as the companies listed above use imported hemp in their products with broad acclaim.

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Hemp History Week – May 17-23, 2010 is an unprecedented industry-wide project initiated by The Hemp Industries Association and Vote Hemp, involving hundreds of hemp manufacturers and retailers. The **Hemp Industries Association (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. While 16 states have passed pro-hemp farming legislation to date, **Hemp History Week** organizers want to influence significant policy changes on the federal level as well. Further information, along with a full list of sponsors can be found at: <http://www.hemphistoryweek.com>

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