



Grow Our Future

JUNE 6-12, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 19, 2016

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Hemp Farming Advocates Pursue De-Scheduling Petition, Federal Policy Change, Following Successful Hemp History Week Campaign

2,000 Events Nationwide Spur Momentum on Hemp Farming Legalization

WASHINGTON, DC – June 6-12, 2016, the nationwide education and advocacy campaign Hemp History Week reached a record number of people, with more than 2,000 events in all 50 states. Over 300 instances of unique press coverage were published in news outlets across the country, covering a myriad of hemp-related news ranging from the health and environmental benefits of hemp, to progress in state and federal legislation toward lifting the prohibition on hemp farming. On June 1st, the campaign held a press conference and luncheon in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the Hemp Industries Association and the Kentucky Industrial Hemp Council, to announce the filing of a petition to de-schedule industrial hemp. On June 10th, the Senate passed a unanimous consent resolution to officially recognize the importance of hemp in American history and the week as “Hemp History Week.” To view the campaign’s press releases which document these events in more detail, please visit: <http://hemphistoryweek.com/media/press-releases/>.

“Each year, the Hemp History Week campaign continues to grow, as more and more people learn about the versatility and sustainability of industrial hemp. With over half of all states now able to cultivate hemp for research, we feel that the majority of Americans support lifting the prohibition on this useful, industrial crop,” said Eric Steenstra. “Congress has recognized how deeply rooted hemp is in American history, but we need our legislators to finally pass policy to allow Americans farmers to grow hemp commercially, and take advantage of the economic opportunity and potential this crop has to offer.”

Hemp in Current Events

The Hemp Industries Association and allies have filed a petition with the Drug Enforcement Administration to remove industrial hemp plants from the schedules established under the Controlled Substances Act. The petition cites language from the Farm Bill of 2014, which defines hemp as distinct from marijuana by establishing the standard that hemp contains no more than 0.3% tetrahydrocannabinol or THC on a dry weight basis. To view the petition, visit: https://www.thehia.org/resources/Documents/Legal/HIA-Deschedule-Petition-DEA_6-1-2016.pdf.

The American market for hemp products remains the largest worldwide, and continues to expand with 10.4% market growth achieved in 2015 according to estimates from the Hemp Industries Association. At least 3,900 acres of U.S. soil were planted in industrial hemp in 2015, across Colorado, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Oregon, Tennessee and Vermont, however commerce of these crops is limited until further Federal legislation is passed. To date, the Industrial Hemp Farming Act has 87 cosponsors in Congress: 73 cosponsors of HR 525, and 14 cosponsors of S.134 in the House and Senate respectively.

Hemp for Our Earth

Hemp farming is an important step toward creating raw materials, finished products, and innovative technologies to catalyze a sustainable future in which every-day products are renewable. Hemp is a renewable resource that can help reduce market dependency on agricultural chemicals, synthetic fibers and plastics, lumber, cotton, and other non-sustainable industrial materials. It contributes to environmentally responsible food and fiber production, forest conservation, reduction in agricultural pesticide use, and soil remediation. Hemp sequesters carbon from the atmosphere thus mitigating the rise of CO2 levels responsible for climate change. Furthermore, pollinators thrive on the prolific pollen created by hemp plants. From hemp super-capacitors for use in batteries to energy efficient hemp homes, industrial hemp is a crop that can *Grow Our Future*.



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Hemp for Our Health

A renewable resource offering a long list of health and nutritional benefits, hemp is one of the fastest-growing categories in the natural foods industry. Hemp seed is a rich source of Omega-3 and Omega-6 essential fatty acids (EFAs), providing both SDA and GLA, highly-digestible protein and naturally-occurring vitamins and minerals, such as vitamin E and iron, while being a good source of dietary fiber. It is a complete protein, containing all ten essential amino acids, with no enzyme inhibitors, making it more digestible by the human body. Hemp seed is gluten-free and has no known allergens.

United in the Effort to Legalize Hemp Farming

Now in its seventh year, *Hemp History Week* is an industry-wide effort made possible by the support of the leading natural product brands known for manufacturing the highest quality hemp products. These HIA members and sponsor brands include Dr. Bronner's, Living Harvest, Manitoba Harvest, Nature's Path Foods, Nutiva, Pacific Foods, Natierra, CV Sciences, and Good Seed Burger.

Over 2000 Hemp History Week grassroots and retail events occurred this spring, in all 50 states. To view the complete listing of events, or to find an event near you, please visit: <http://hemphistoryweek.com/get-involved/event-listing/>.

Legislative Challenges and Opportunities in 2016

When the 2014 Farm Bill was signed into law in February of 2014, the hemp amendment to the bill, Sec. 7606 Legitimacy of Industrial Hemp Research, defined industrial hemp as distinct from the *Cannabis sativa L.*. This was an historic moment in the longstanding effort to legalize hemp as the act asserts that industrial hemp is not psychoactive, having less than 0.3% tetrahydrocannabinol on a dry weight basis and therefore presenting no drug value.

The bill further allows for states that have already legalized the crop to cultivate hemp within the parameters of state agriculture departments and research institutions. Read the full text of the Legitimacy of Industrial Hemp Research amendment on the Vote Hemp website: http://www.votehemp.com/PDF/Pages_from_farm0127.pdf.

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 declassify industrial hemp as a Schedule 1 Controlled Substance and once again allow states to regulate hemp farming.

The 29 states that have legalized industrial hemp farming, per provision Sec. 7606 of the farm bill, include: Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, 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 since 1994. 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 and www.VoteHemp.com.