

James Barrett  
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### **Senate Bill 8 Testimony**

Esteemed Committee, Legislature, and Staff,

I urge the Legislature to please move Senate Bill 8 forward. This is a great bill that offers boundless economic opportunities to Alaskans. The production of Industrial Hemp in Alaska provides the ability for our State to produce a new global GDP without any further infrastructure or extra costs to the State. This is exactly the type of legislation that the people of Alaska need as a means for new and alternative economic options.

Hemp is an amazing plant and is nothing like Marijuana when consumed. The plant has been a part of human history for thousands of years. In this sense, this bill is completely appropriate in that it very nicely differentiates Marijuana from Hemp via statute.

Just as the word paper comes from the papyrus tree, the word “canvas” derives from the word “cannabis” in which the first canvas was made from cannabis hemp variety of plant. This plant has been used throughout history for thousands of years and can provide many great things to our society. Our constitution was printed on hemp paper and the ropes in which the settlers used in their ships were also made of hemp.

Today nano-fibers, plastics, construction materials and even battery cells can be made with this plant!

Please keep in mind that hemp is not psychoactive and is safe to grow. Hemp also is a very clean agricultural product that does not cause soil erosion like many other crops. Because industrial hemp is not psychoactive it is not considered to be a Schedule 1 substance.

This bill has a zero fiscal note and is simple and clean. This is exactly the type of legislation that the people of Alaska need as a means for new and alternative economic options.

Many states have already started the industrial hemp production and have seen much success. Alaska must not go stale with its’ resources and economic options. We have the more natural resources than any other state and adding hemp to the list of great things that come from our Great Land.

Thank you again for the hard work and effort made this session.

James Barrett