HB 172- Industrial Hemp

- HB 172 allows Alaska to host a pilot program giving Alaskans the opportunity to grow, cultivate, transport, process and market industrial hemp.
- The bill also changes the definition of industrial hemp from a controlled substance under the Marijuana Control Board to a industrial crop under the Division of Agriculture.
- HB 172 will allow Alaska join over half of the United States in the production of industrial hemp expanding the market for at least seven industries in the state.
- HB 172 allows the pilot program outlined in section 7606 of the 2014 Farm Bill.

- Industrial hemp is a crop made of the plant cannabis sativa L.
- Hemp and marijuana are both produced by the plant cannabis sativa L however they are different cultivars/strains of the plant.
- The distinction between the two strains are in the planting, habitat, cultivation, processing, and use of product.
- The hemp is used for industrial purpose in textiles, farming, furniture, livestock feed, and many other industries.
- The cropping of hemp that HB 172 will allow is strictly for industrial purpose and has **absolutely no intention** to produce marijuana to be sold for recreational consumption.

Hemp

- Very low THC concentration
- Versatile to growing conditions
- Product is mostly from stock fibers



Marijuana

- High THC concentration
- Requires specific growing conditions
- Product extracted from the flowering of Cannabis plant

Key Points of HB172

- Any hemp crop above 0.3% Delta-9 THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) will not be valid for production.
- Farmers must register global positioning coordinates of crop location with Division of Agriculture.
- Licensing must be renewed annually.
- Three years of record of sold or transferred products must be kept by registrant.

Benefits of Industrial Hemp

- Introduction of another industrial crop to Alaska's economy has potential to create jobs, spur revenue, and incorporate an industry that is growing across the country.
- Hemp products can be produced from every part of the cannabis plant.
- The rapid growth of cannabis can yield production of paper, textiles, and various other products are more efficient than timber and leaves a smaller footprint after harvesting.



- History of hemp successfully growing in Alaska dates back to the early 1900's, and has proven resilience through Alaskan climate.
- By allowing HB 172 to move industrial hemp from a controlled substance to a crop under the Division of Agriculture the State of Alaska will benefit with economic expansion and career opportunities.