

2/8/2018

Representative Foster and Representative Seaton  
Co-Chairs, House Finance Committee  
Alaska House of Representatives

Re: Senate Bill 6 Industrial Hemp Production

Thank you Mr. Chairman for this opportunity to comment on SB6 and the issue of industrial hemp production in Alaska. I'd like to speak to one aspect of this legislation that directly affects my family.

My granddaughter will be three years old in May. When she was three months old she was diagnosed with a very rare form of epilepsy, known as Aicardi Syndrome. The long term prognosis for Aicardi kids is dire, to say the least. Most never gain any motor skills and spend their lives in a wheel chair. On the advice of her neurologists we started her on a series of anti-seizure medications; powerful drugs with very serious side effects.

After extensive research it became apparent to me that a non-psychoactive derivative from industrial hemp, cannabidiol, or CBD, was demonstrating to be as good or better than any of the prescribed pharmaceuticals at reducing and in many cases eliminating seizure activity, while having none of the terrible side effects routinely seen with conventional therapies.

When she was six months old we started giving her CBD every day in addition to the drugs prescribed by her doctors. At sixteen months, my granddaughter was still unable to lift herself to a sitting position, so we made a very difficult decision – we weaned her off of the drugs known to inhibit motor development and kept her on CBD for seizure control. About a month later, her life, and all of our lives, radically changed. One day she raised herself to a sitting position. A few weeks later she started turning around on the floor. A few more weeks and she was scooting around the room. Within a few months she was walking while holding on to objects and five months after the drugs were out of her system she was walking without assistance. She now goes to play sessions at the gym in Haines every week and runs, plays, and rides a tricycle with her peers. We have not witnessed any seizures in her twenty-six months of using CBD.

During my research I also became aware that tens of thousands of veterans across our country are using CBD to lessen the impact of PTSD and depression. It is primarily for this reason that Congressman Young became a founding Co-Chair of the Cannabis Caucus in the U.S. Congress a year ago. People with Parkinson's disease are using CBD to reduce tremors. People with debilitating arthritis are getting relief from CBD and in the last few years, we've seen a rapidly growing use of non-addictive CBD as a substitute for opioids by people suffering from chronic pain. All of these positive impacts have now been documented by clinical studies as well as anecdotal reports by people like me who have no reason to see or claim any benefit where none exists. Arguably the greatest proof of CBD's ability to address a host of neurological disorders is the fact that the pharmaceutical industry is scrambling to produce and market synthetic CBD.

CBD is one of more than 100 cannabinoids, a class of compounds produced by plants of the genus *Cannabis*. One of those cannabinoids, tetrahydrocannabinol or THC, is familiar to many people because of its psychoactive properties. As I mentioned earlier, CBD is not psychoactive and is not addictive. CBD can be derived from the stalks of industrial hemp, and is typically produced from plants that purposefully have virtually no THC because for many people, like those with epilepsy, THC can be harmful rather than beneficial.

My granddaughter will likely be taking CBD her whole life. She should be able to get CBD from producers in Alaska; an industrial hemp industry in Alaska will contribute huge benefits to society with no "side effects." Please pass this bill out of committee today so it can move through the remaining legislative process without delay.

Thank you very much for taking my testimony. I would be happy to speak with you or other members of the committee at any time about this matter.

Sincerely,

*Gershon Cohen Ph.D.*

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Reference to Bill S B 6  
By  
Robert Harr  
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May 13, 2017

Dear House Finance Committee,

I would ask that Bill S B 6 be passed to the facts listed below.

I am a leader in trenchless technology and known worldwide. I have multiple patents in this industry and one of those is using Bast Fibers for Composites and Cured In Place lining.

For the last 6 months, we have been doing testing and running production levels of hemp fibers for many uses. The facility in Fort Lupton Colorado has wonderful scientist and we are working in conjunction with several Universities as well.

The Cured In Place Lining is installing a new water, sewer, pipeline, culvert which has issues of deterioration or otherwise leaking without digging the lineup for replacement. This industry is over a trillion dollars worldwide. Please fact check this in the Cure In Place Lining Guide in Trenchless technology or Underground Construction Magazines. Hemp fibers aid in making the lining materials 33 % stronger, Mold, mildew, and fire resistance to 500 degrees. The Hemp fibers will cure the issues for the oil and gas industry in reducing cost of repair to leaking underground lines without digging them up.

Hemp along with Cured in Place lining is not a stock market driven industry. Hemp would be a more sustainable industry than oil and gas which would aid in another billion-dollar taxable industry for Alaska. This industry would assist in the short fall of the State's current budget crisis.

I already have NDA agreements signed with some of the CIPP leaders in the world. Aegion Corporation, Pure Hemp Technologies, and Applied Felts. Please look this up.

With further research, we have found remediation elements in the hurd part of the plant. The hurd is the outer (bark or shell ) of the plant. We now have proven the remediation factors of subsurface introduction of this extracted Hemp liquid by directional drilling at the Sun Corp Energy Refinery in Wyoming. We have found that the hemp liquid will dissolve the heavy metals, PCB's and benzines spilled in the ground. This is wonderful for Alaska and issues which reside here as well.

There are many communities in Alaska that would benefit in the production of the hemp fibers for my uses. This would also provide back haul of products from Alaska either by boat or truck decreasing logistic cost of shipping products to and from Alaska.

There are energy efficiencies in the fibers as well such as insulations, and pelletizing for wood stoves. Once the Hemp is processed through the test proven reactor systems there is no trace of THC which is very limited to .03 % anyway.

Today another entity called Canopy has developed Hemp seed which has no THC in it. However, I would ask that further laws, practices or regulations require that Hemp and Marijuana have adequate separation distance for growing. This is so that the Hemp plant not become cross pollinated with the Marijuana.

I have been working with Michael Bowman who is the national director for the Hemp Growers Association for the USA. We are currently addressing the USA Congress and Senate about the need for laws and bills to become passed. We are also working with Vermeer and John Deer for the harvesting equipment and I am in Pella Iowa right now at the factory.

I have expressed several times to members of the House and Senate here in Alaska about using cost saving advantages with my patents. Factually under MAP 21 passed by the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress of the USA, sub title C and sections 1301-1304 Under these provisions the Federal Government requires that States use Innovative Product Delivery Methods. Please look this up.

The State of Alaska would save millions of dollars wasted every year on highway projects utilizing the technology. Cured In Place Lining would repair underground facilities without costly excavations of pipeline, culverts, sewer and water lines. The CIPP industry has proven itself for over a decade and the State of Alaska can benefit this billion-dollar taxable resource for years to come.

Thank you and please consider passing S B 6 Hemp bill,

Robert Harr

Harr Technologies LLC

Dear House Finance Committee ,

An Agricultural Hemp Industry would provide new economic opportunities for many Alaskans. The passing of an Agricultural Hemp Bill is the beginning process of rights being returned to the private person who wants to grow a crop of Hemp.

Hemp is one of those crops that can be grown in large acreages or small garden plots. Equipment such as combines or even hand tools may be used to harvest and process. The methodology is guided by the purpose. This is a grassroots movement, and there is plenty of room for the farmer and non-farmer alike.

Pilot programs are a start.

As always, Decriminalizing and De-scheduling Cannabis on a Federal level is the only way to free the plant and those that have given up their own freedoms for the cause.

I am including several links below that demonstrate the positive potential of Agricultural Hemp.

Thank you,

Ember Haynes

There are so many areas in Alaska that could be improved with a Hemp cover-crop.

"According to the report, contaminants spewing from a local massive steel plant contaminated the grazing land.

All grazing is banned within 12 miles of the ILVA steel plant after the Italian government declared the area an environmental risk area.

In order to save the environment — and the livelihood of the local citizens — hemp has been introduced to clean up the land.

This is certainly not the first time the plant has been used to in environmental disasters.

Following the Chernobyl nuclear accident, hemp was farmed to remove radioactive strontium and cesium."

<https://thefreshtoast.com/cannabis/farmers-in-italy-grow-industrial-hemp-to-save-their-soil/>

Washington has been given the ok to import viable hemp seeds by the Federal Government!

"The Washington State Department of Agriculture has received approval from federal authorities to import hemp seeds, paving the way for farmers to experiment with the cannabis crop.

"It's a real, real possibility we'll have a spring planting of hemp," WSDA hemp coordinator Emily Febles said Wednesday."

<http://www.capitalpress.com/Washington/20170314/federal-government-oks-hemp-seeds-for-washington-state>

"After almost 20 years of development, the technology to separate hemp fiber and cellulose fresh from the field is finally available as the Clarke D8 decorticator. This 2017 harvest we have successfully processed fresh hemp stalks into hemp fiber and hurd, products which can be utilized by a wide variety industries. This innovation is a world first, and a massive step in increasing efficiency for hemp farmers. Hemp fiber is traditionally produced using a hammer mill. This is a multi-million dollar facility that separates the fiber by forcefully "hammering" the hemp stalks. This obviously weakens the fiber. Another downside to the hammer mill is the fact that the hemp is required to ret in the field for around 6 months before it can be processed, as the fresh fiber contains too much sticky resin for the hammer mill process to work. This makes the production of hemp fiber a very costly process, not only due to the cost of building the factory, but also the loss of land for half of a year."

<https://www.hempfarm.co.nz/worlds-first-fresh-hemp-fiber-decorticator/>

Thank you for considering an Agricultural Hemp Industry in Alaska.

Sincerely,  
Ember Haynes