

Representative Pruitt and Senator Giessel,

I am a resident of the Scenic Foothills neighborhood in Anchorage and wanted to contact you as my Alaska State Legislative representatives regarding a potential revenue source that could help our State re-balance its budget.

Vis-a-vis the popularity and success of a legalized recreational marijuana industry in the state, I urge you both to consider proposing a law to our State statutes that legalizes the cultivation of industrial hemp. Of the several strains of *Cannabis*, *Cannabis sativa* has the lowest levels of THC and is not suitable for recreational consumption. The plant has been grown for thousands of years in Europe and parts of Russia, and some strains survive even at 66-Degrees N Latitude. Canada produces hemp products and domestically grows the plant in BC, Saskatchewan, and Ontario. Unlike its recreational cousin, it can survive and grow in moist, temperate, northern climates.

The uses of the plant fiber are multitudinous. The stalk flesh is a cotton- or wool-like material that produces linen and rope. The stalk core has a pulpy nature suitable for building materials, including insulation, particle board, and concrete. Its high insulative properties and flexibility lends itself to construction in Alaska.

Other uses exist for the seeds, including food production.

Currently legal in 31 states, the production and cultivation of the plant is a \$580 Mil. industry. The sale and development of hemp products could provide a welcome source of income for the state, and one that could continue for decades. Our oil resources will not last forever and the State has the opportunity to invest in other—perhaps less damaging—industries. Please consider joining the majority of the Nation in supporting industrial hemp development. As a note, I have no business affiliation with any hemp organization or production. I merely am a concerned citizen interested in pursuing other forms of resource development and revenue.

Respectfully Yours,

-Connor Scher